

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

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NEWS RELEASE

High Poverty MIDDLE SCHOOL Using Direct Instruction Model Scores Highest in District on FCAT

Lincoln Middle School, Gainesville, Florida achieved the highest score on the Florida Writes Test of Grade 8 Students of all Middle Schools in Alachua County.

For the past three years Lincoln Middle School has expanded its implementation of the Direct Instruction Model in language arts. This year Lincoln MS achieved the highest FCAT scores in writing of any middle school in the district, 59% of the students with disabilities passed the FCAT, 97% of the regular program students passed.

Lincoln has also received "A" scores from the state of Florida for the last three years for student performance. These consecutively high grades come in spite of serving a very high-need population. Of the 620 grade six to eight students, 83% qualify for the free or reduced lunch program and 92% are African American.

Three years ago, Lincoln Middle School, which at the time had a "D" rating, began to implement the Corrective Reading Decoding program, a component of the Direct Instruction Model. Over the past two years, Lincoln MS expanded the DI Model to include other programs: Corrective Reading Comprehension, Reasoning and Writing, Expressive Writing and Connecting Math Concepts. All students now learn from at least one Direct Instruction program each day; 70% learn from 2 DI programs, and 60% learn from 4 DI programs per day.

Here are some highlights from the 2002 FCAT results;

63% of the lowest quartile made above normal gains in FCAT reading.

67% of all students made above normal gains in FCAT reading.

96% of all students passed the FCAT writing assessment.

Lincoln Middle School joins a list of schools from around the country who have implemented the DI Model with the support by Dr. Bonnie Grossen, Director of the Center for Applied Research in Education (CARE), in Eugene, Oregon. Dr. Grossen, co-author of several DI programs, is establishing a network to support other schools that desire to replicate the program established at Lincoln MS

Lincoln MS can provide information on steps that interested schools can take to begin a DI Model implementation. More information can also be found on the CARE website, www.higherscores.org, or by contacting the CARE office, (503) 207-5602.