

March 4, 1999

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

**SUBJECT: VIDEO PRESENTATION ON DIRECT INSTRUCTION**

The American Broadcasting Company's (ABC) news magazine show *Primetime Live* ran a report on the Direct Instruction curricula, designed by Siegfried Englemann, being implemented at an inner city elementary school in Houston. This report explained how the school's students consistently scored much higher on standardized tests than their counterparts at most schools with similar proportions of at-risk children. The curricula has succeeded by defying all the fashionable theories of educational reform.

At my request, Mr. Arlington Sands, a counselor on-leave from Martin Luther King Elementary School, visited the Houston school on March 4, 1999. He had high praise for the program; however, he indicated that for such a program to obtain maximum impact a continuity of curriculum and technique from Pre-K through senior high school would be necessary.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, with the help of People Acting for Community Together (PACT), has 12 schools utilizing The SRA Reading Mastery Direct Instruction (DI) Program. Although in its second year of implementation, impact data is not yet available. When watching this tape, please view this curricula not as a "silver bullet" remedy but as an innovative and encouraging teaching method.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive the video presentation on Direct Instruction.

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