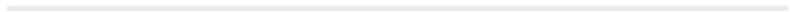


**Mc
Gr w
Hill**

DISTRICT INFORMATION

[Empty rectangular box for district information]



Part of the district's new focus is on identifying the approximately 20 percent of students who are falling behind and looking at alternatives for grades K–3 intervention education to catch them up and keep them caught up. Direct Instruction (DI) curricula were identified as essential to ensuring success in the district's existing intervention system.

Sumner's educators found that in many cases, their core programs weren't reaching beginning readers or helping them keep up with their peers. Traci Donohue, Special Services Director for Sumner, was one of the leaders tapped to ensure that reading instruction was delivered in an easily accessible manner to struggling students. "There was just not enough time available, nor enough practice, to get them to grade level," she said. "Students were getting further and further behind, and we knew that if the progress wasn't accelerated soon, we were never going to make headway."

Donohue had been on a five-year journey to implement Direct Instruction. To get struggling students back on track, the district chose two

"Teachers are now beating down the door to get the curriculum and the training they need to implement it," said Donohue.

Donohue feels that the best aspects of Direct Instruction programs are their explicit, intentional instruction and systematic delivery. "DI programs are the best thing for struggling learners that we've seen," she said. "They provide structure for teachers and support for teachers. I haven't seen anything else that can meet the needs of struggling students [as well] as the Direct Instruction curriculum does. It truly meets the needs of all students. It meets them where they are to accelerate the pace of their learning," she said.

The Future

Future plans include observing teachers frequently, reminding them about what they learned in training, and giving them positive feedback. "You really need to keep the momentum going after the first and second years," said Donohue. "We constantly think, 'How do we bring teachers into the DI fold, keep the teachers going, and make them better and better at what they do?'"

The Sumner School District is also working out a way to document the results gained from implementing the Direct Instruction programs, including a systematic means of collecting and reporting on data.

DI programs are helping Sumner r65cherhem abdo0e6