

# Achievement Matters

The Newsletter from Educational Achievement Publishing

Explicit Instruction. Exceptional Outcomes.

March 2026

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

Welcome to this issue of *Achievement Matters*, the newsletter from Educational Achievement Publishing—home of the *Direct Instruction Spoken English* (DISE) program.

As we move into the spring testing season, we know this can be one of the most demanding times of the year. The pressure is real. The pace feels fast. And the stakes can feel high.

Before anything else, we want to acknowledge this: by considering or choosing to implement *Direct Instruction Spoken English*, you are already making a strong instructional decision for students who are acquiring English. You are prioritizing oral language, structured practice, and explicit modeling — the very

## How Many Student Responses Should Happen in a Lesson?

In a 90-minute DISE lesson, students should respond hundreds of times.

That's not accidental. It's by design.

Direct Instruction accelerates learning through high response rates, immediate feedback, and precise correction. Every choral response is an opportunity to strengthen pronunciation, sentence structure, and fluency.

Frequent responding matters — especially for multilingual learners. Each repetition builds automaticity with English sounds and patterns. Students are not waiting to be called on; they are actively practicing throughout the lesson.

High response rates also increase engagement. When students are consistently responding, there is less downtime, less distraction, and more learning.

If a lesson feels slow or disengaged, consider the response rate. More opportunities to

foundations that support literacy growth and long-term success. This newsletter is simply a reminder of the power of daily precision.

Strong response rates. Clear materials. Tight first minutes. These may seem like small instructional moves, but together they create momentum. They build fluency. They strengthen confidence. And over time, they change outcomes.

Testing season does not require a shift in philosophy. It calls for steady, faithful implementation of the practices that already work.

When students are actively responding, when pacing is purposeful, when expectations are clear, learning accelerates — one lesson at a time.

Thank you for the professionalism, consistency, and care you bring to this work. What you are doing matters. And we are grateful to support you.

Warmly,  
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## Clear Materials Support Strong Participation

During a DISE lesson, students do not need books, paper, pencils, or additional materials. Instruction is entirely oral. Students are listening carefully, speaking in complete sentences, and responding together. Because there is no reading or writing component, materials are not necessary for the lesson to be successful.

respond often lead to stronger momentum and faster progress.

In DISE, fluency grows through active participation — one response at a time.



Join EAP at the National Direct Instruction Conference this July!

We will have a booth, and training for *Direct Instruction Spoken English* (DISE) will be available.

View more information and register [here](#).

DISE is now on Amazon **internationally!** Just search your local Amazon site for *Direct Instruction Spoken English*. Level 2 will be available by the end of March.



### Direct Instruction Spoken English (DISE) Level 1 (5 book series)

Paperback Edition

*Direct Instruction: Spoken English* Builds a Foundational Mastery of the English Language  
What is *Direct Instruction: Spoken English*?  
*Direct Instruction: Spoken English* (DISE) provides an explicit, systematic instructional model to help English language learners acquire a functional mastery of spoken English. From instruction to content, DISE moves students to oral language proficiency.

Motivating for Every Student  
DISE provides user-friendly, streamlined components. Because the entire program is based on oral instruction and speaking activities, students are motivated and actively engage in oral learning and practice every day.

## The First 15 Minutes Matter... A Lot

In DISE, acceleration doesn't begin later in the year. It begins in the first 15 minutes of every lesson.

Those opening minutes establish pronunciation standards, pacing, and response habits that drive fluency. When the lesson begins with clarity and precision, students experience immediate success — and that success builds momentum.

**Why It Matters**

When workspaces are clear, attention remains on the language being modeled and practiced. Items left within reach — even small ones — can quietly compete for focus and result in slow lesson pacing. Consistent materials expectations support stronger engagement, smoother delivery, and higher response rates across lessons.

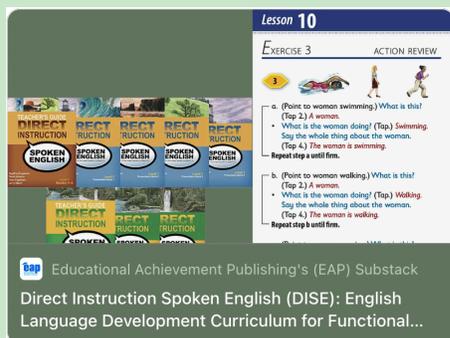
For instructional leaders, reinforcing this simple routine schoolwide can significantly strengthen implementation fidelity.

**Try this tomorrow:** Before beginning the DISE lesson, pause for a brief reset or check — “Please clear your desks. Hands folded. Eyes on me.” Take a quick scan of the group, then begin. This small habit can noticeably improve focus and lesson flow.

Clear desks create the conditions for clear listening, confident responding, and accelerated language growth.

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The first 15 minutes establish:

- Attention and response expectations
- Accurate pronunciation and sound production
- Brisk, purposeful pacing
- Confidence through early correct responses

From a Science of Learning perspective, strong oral modeling and choral responding support phonological processing — foundational to decoding and reading fluency. Spoken language precision strengthens literacy development. Your high expectations for these from the very beginning of every lesson make a difference.

For multilingual learners, these opening routines are especially important. Clear models, consistent signals, and repeated group responses reduce uncertainty and provide structured practice with English sounds and sentence patterns.

## What to Focus On

As you begin your lesson (and throughout):

- Use a crisp, consistent signal.
- Expect unified group responses.
- Correct immediately using Model → Lead → Test.
- Keep think time brief and intentional.
- Maintain a high standard for pronunciation.

You don't need to change everything all at once. Tightening even one of these elements can strengthen the entire lesson.

## The Bottom Line

DISE is designed to build mastery and fluency. The program works best when the opening minutes are deliberate and precise.

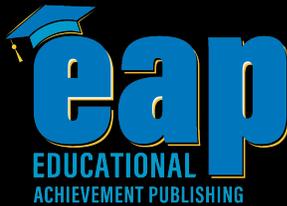
Acceleration begins with tight instruction.

Fluency begins with accurate oral responses.  
Confidence begins in the first 15 minutes.

## Continue Strengthening Your Practice

Educators looking to deepen DISE implementation are encouraged to participate in professional development offered through our training partner, the National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI). These trainings provide hands-on practice with signals, pacing, corrections, and fluency-building routines that strengthen classroom instruction.

[Click here](#) to learn more about upcoming DISE trainings or to discuss support for your school or district. We're always here and happy to support your work.



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