

## Florida School Raises Reading Scores with Direct Instruction

Students at Tuttle Elementary School are improving their scores on the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT) with the help of SRA/McGraw-Hill's Direct Instruction programs – *Reading Mastery*, *Reading Mastery Plus*, and *Corrective Reading*.

In 2002, 49% of students in Grades 3-5 scored at or above Level 3 on the FCAT. The FCAT is scored in five levels, with Level 1 being the lowest and Level 5 the highest. By 2005, that percentage rose to 60.

Curriculum Specialist Sheryl Cutrona said in the mid-1990s teachers wanted a more structured and systematic program that would give every child in Grades K-5 the opportunity to read as well as succeed in school.

“That’s why we implemented *Reading Mastery*

“Now it is not unusual for Kindergartners to stop by my office to say, ‘Do you know we can read? That’s because we do SRA.’ ”

Cutrona said *Reading Mastery* also gives teachers the opportunity to move at-risk children to on-level reading or above-level reading. By 2005, 71% of students read at or above grade level, and 62% made a year’s worth of progress in reading.

“Direct Instruction is outstanding, but when you couple that with an incredible teaching staff like ours, you see results that are exactly in line with what the program’s authors intended.”

**About Tuttle Elementary School**

This Title I school located in the Sarasota School District serves 826 students in Grades K-5: 57% Hispanic, 24% Caucasian, 13% African American, 4% multicultural, and 2% Asian. Eighty-three percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, and 29% are English Language Learners. For more information about Tuttle Elementary School, visit [www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/schools/tuttle.htm](http://www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/schools/tuttle.htm)

**For More Information**

If you would like to learn more about success with Direct Instruction programs in your school or district, please contact us today at 1-888-SRA-4543.