



CASE STUDY

Grades K–5

District 49 in Colorado Springs, CO

District 49 serves more than 21,000 students and employs over a thousand full-time teachers. The district has recently made it a priority to achieve literary gains by implementing a K–5 curriculum based on the science of reading.

In 2015, District 49 began the search for a new English Language Arts curriculum. District leaders knew of schools in the area that had seen learning gains from impactful new curricula. These leaders wanted a new curriculum with rigorous content that would engage students and differ from what they'd used in the past. In their research, they learned that Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) not only met these qualifications, but was also grounded in the science of reading—their number one priority. With support from the district, two schools decided to pilot Amplify CKLA.

“CKLA is not structured like a typical ELA curriculum. I’ve never seen one like it in my 25 years in education.

It’s raised the rigor and expectations in the classroom... making the students and teachers extend their own minds, and teachers love that. Teachers are learners, too! I would encourage someone to go visit a CKLA classroom so they can see it for themselves.”

—Stacey Franklin, Coordinator of Literacy Performance

Race and ethnicity scope:
Falcon School District 49

Percentage of the total population

White: 73.2%
Hispanic: 13.4%
Black: 5.4%
Asian: 3.3%
Mixed: 3.9%
Other: 0.8%

Source: statisticalatlas.com

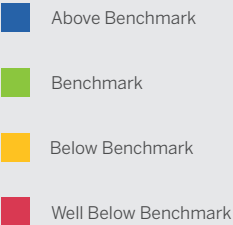
A new approach to reading instruction

Piloting a new comprehensive program like Amplify CKLA made some teachers apprehensive at first, but once they received professional development courses and saw the resources in action, the initial challenges started disappearing. Teachers liked the two-strand approach of explicit phonics instruction taught with rich background knowledge. They also found the Teacher Resource Site easy to use and liked the variety of resources available. By implementing the program with fidelity, the district is seeing significant growth.

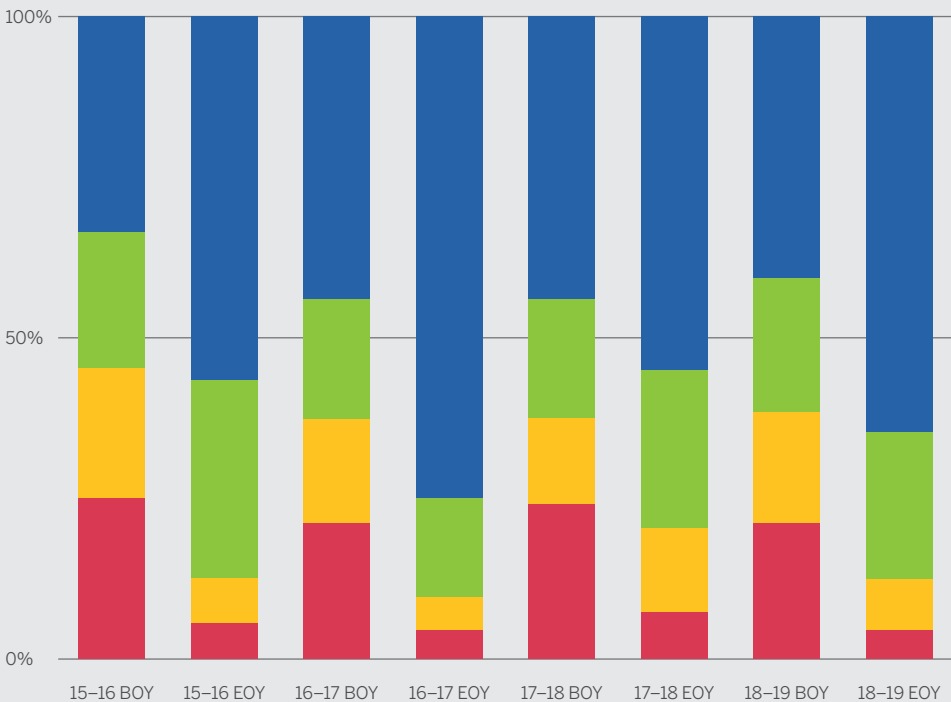
Once the district saw the tremendous success and learning gains made in their classrooms, they began to roll out the CKLA curriculum in more schools. Today, 11 out of 18 elementary schools in District 49 teach CKLA.

School: Grand Peak Academy

District 49 administers mCLASS® with DIBELS® to all students. Since the first year of implementation, they have seen a decrease in Well Below Benchmark and Below Benchmark students at both BOY and EOY.



Accelerating growth and reducing the number of at-risk students



“In our fifth year as partners, D49 and Amplify together have made a **significant impact on our young literacy learners!** Assessment fidelity, data analysis conversations, and instructional decision making have vastly improved and, as a result, student performance in D49 defies national trends.”

—Amber Dawn Whetstine, Executive Director of Learning Services