



Cherry Creek School District, Colorado



*Dedicated to
Excellence*
Cherry Creek Schools

Dr. Holly Porter, Director of ELA Programs for Cherry Creek School District, never speaks about their growing population of English Language Learners in terms of problems or challenges. “I see these kids as nothing but opportunity,” she says. “All of us in the district can learn from their cultures and experiences. It makes our district that much richer, and I feel lucky to be a part of it.”

To help these students reach proficiency in English and content area classes, Cherry Creek has implemented Path to Proficiency district-wide.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF A GROWING POPULATION

Like many districts across the country, Cherry Creek has seen its population of English Language Learners (ELL) grow in both size and diversity in recent years. Currently, the district serves 5,700 ELL students, roughly 11% of their total student body. However, their ELL enrollment is growing faster than their enrollment as a whole. Students come from all over the world, with nearly 140 languages represented in the district. Spanish is the most common language spoken at home (38%); other dominant languages include Arabic, Russian, Korean, Chinese, Somali and Nepali.

Cherry Creek uses a co-teaching model that pairs English Language Acquisition

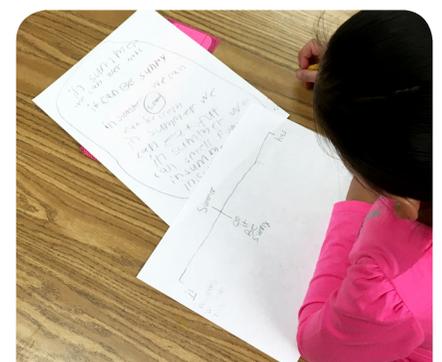
(ELA) specialists with content area teachers for several hours each week. Outside of special, limited-time classes for newcomers, ELLs are completely immersed in the regular classroom with their English-speaking peers.

The district was already using Thinking Maps district-wide. However, English Language Learners needed extra support to speed up language acquisition and build content knowledge. Classroom teachers also needed to understand how to differentiate use of the Maps for students with different levels of English proficiency. Path to Proficiency provided a bridge to help teachers better serve their ELLs.

SNAPSHOT

Cherry Creek School District

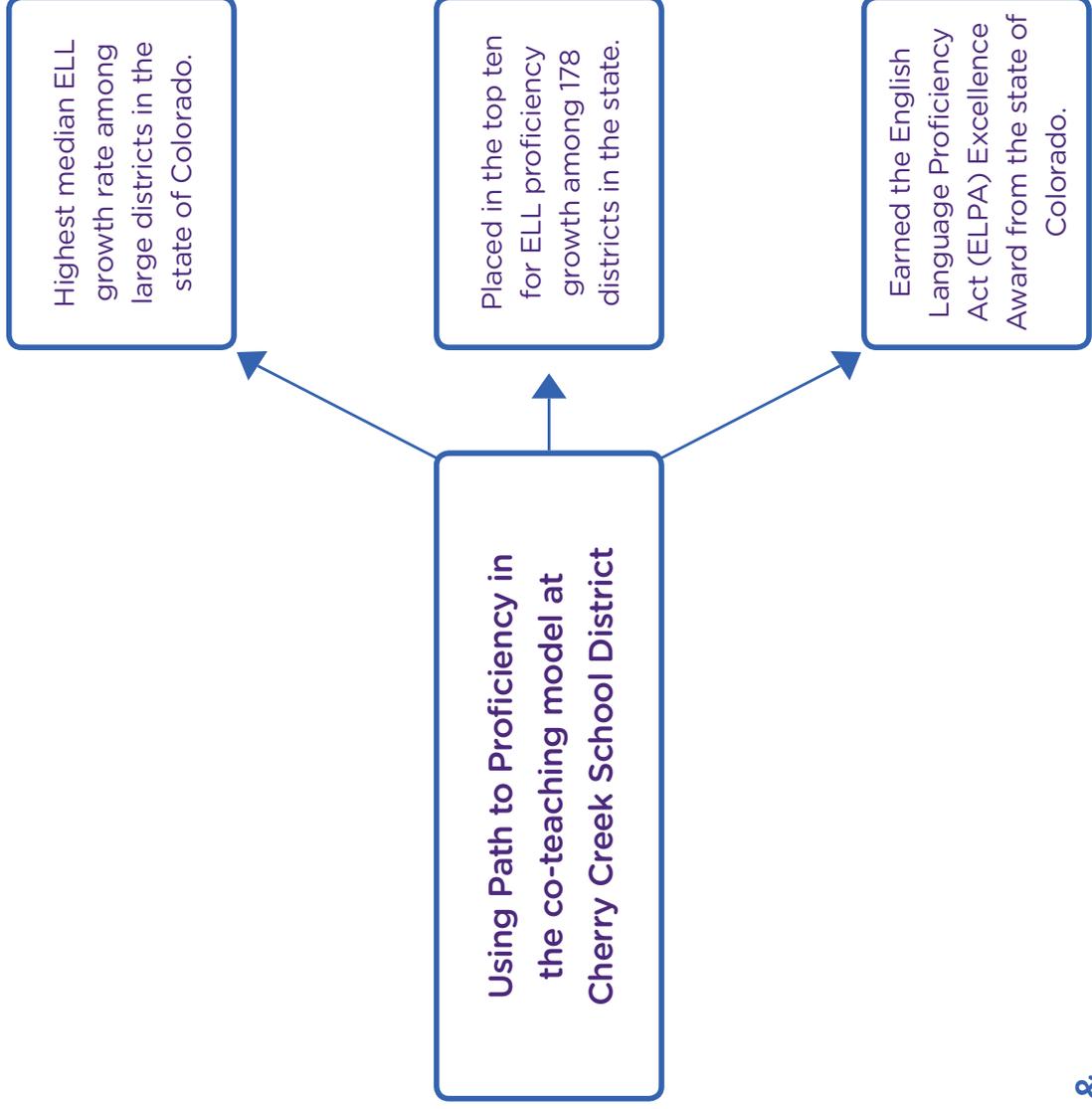
- 67 Schools and Programs
- 54,500 Students
- 3,700 Teachers
- 92 ELA Specialists
- 29% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 5,700 ELA Students
- 140 Languages



“The kids love it because it works. They can see that they can be successful, and it gives them confidence in interacting with their grade level peers.”

-Meg Lucero, Program Coordinator,
ELA Department

CHERRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT ACHIEVES OUTSTANDING ELL RESULTS



Thinking Maps,
Path to Proficiency &
Co-Teaching Model