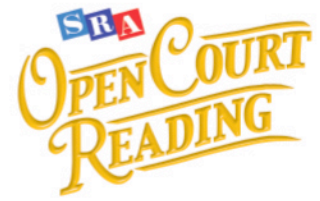


About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	PreK-5	African American:	13%
Number of Students:	450	Caucasian:	59%
Test(s):	CSAP, DIBELS	Hispanic:	25%
Reduced Price Lunch:	51%	Asian:	2%
		Other:	1%
		ELL	6%



Colorado Elementary School Uses Open Court Reading for Core Reading Program and Direct Instruction to Close Achievement Gap

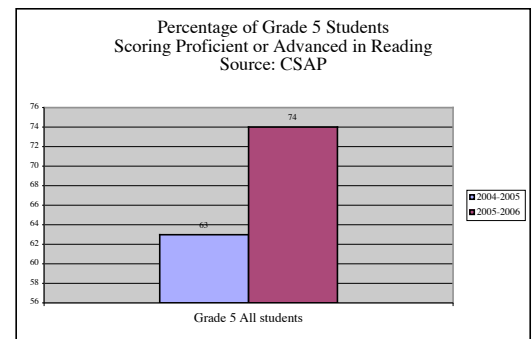
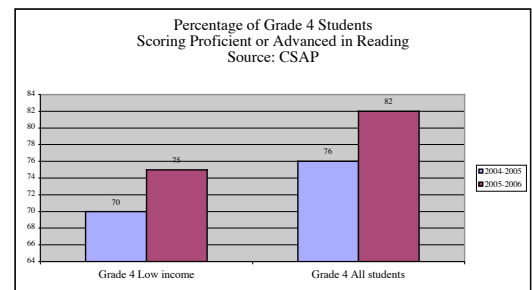
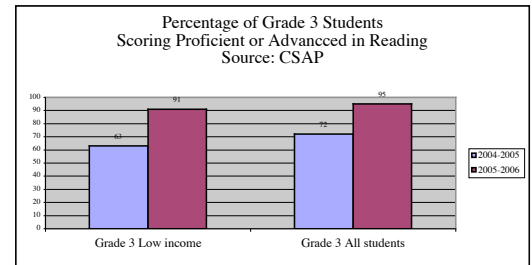
Teachers at Aragon Elementary School in Fountain-Fort Carson School District have used SRA/McGraw-Hill’s *Open Court Reading* so successfully since the beginning of the 2001–2002 school year that they decided to implement a few more SRA reading programs for intervention during the 2005–2006 school year. Now Direct Instruction’s *Reading Mastery* is used with struggling readers in Grades 1–2 while *Horizons* is used in Grades 2–4, and the achievement gap among socioeconomic levels is closing.

Literacy Coach Peggy Johnson said one of the reasons students are succeeding is because *Open Court Reading* follows reading research to a ‘T’, and like Direct Instruction, is scientifically based on sound data.

“Both reading strategies are systematic, explicit, and structured,” she said. “Since Direct Instruction falls right into line with *Open Court Reading*, we use it to accelerate struggling readers back into the core reading program.”

Principal Jim Welte said teachers work with struggling readers up to 1 1/2 hours each day. In addition, they constantly assess and regroup students to ensure they are on the path to reading proficiency. He credits this open communication among teachers as another reason for reading success.

“Teachers at each grade level meet weekly to talk about student performance with the SRA programs,” he said. “This professional dialogue has become part of our culture, and the students really benefit from it.”





Achievement Gap is Closing

Welte said the combination of exceptional teachers and SRA programs are the reason why students continue to score well on the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP). By implementing Direct Instruction with struggling students, teachers are helping to close the achievement gap among socioeconomic levels.

“We work so hard to accelerate our students,” he said. “And *Open Court Reading* and Direct Instruction help us achieve our goals. The collegiality of this building is phenomenal, which makes all the difference in the world, and when you add programs that involve seamless teaching, students are the ultimate winners.”

About Aragon Elementary School

Located in the Fountain-Fort Carson School District and serving approximately 450 students in Grades Pre-K–5, this school’s student population is 59% Caucasian, 25% Hispanic, 13% African American, 2% Asian, and 1% Native American. Fifty-one percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, and 6% are English Language Learners (ELL). For more information about Aragon Elementary School, visit www.ffc8.org/aragon.

For More Information

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