

*Spelling for Writers*  
Program Effectiveness  
Lakewood, CO 2005-2006



# SPELLING FOR WRITERS PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

## Spelling for Writers Effectiveness Evaluation Study Lakewood, CO

### Study Participants

207 students in grades one through six in the Patterson Elementary School in Lakewood, CO participated in the evaluation study of the *Spelling for Writers* program. Patterson Elementary School is part of the Jefferson Public School system with a total enrollment of 350 students, of which 48% are eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

### Jefferson Public School District Demographics

**Schools:** 162

**Teachers:** 4,768

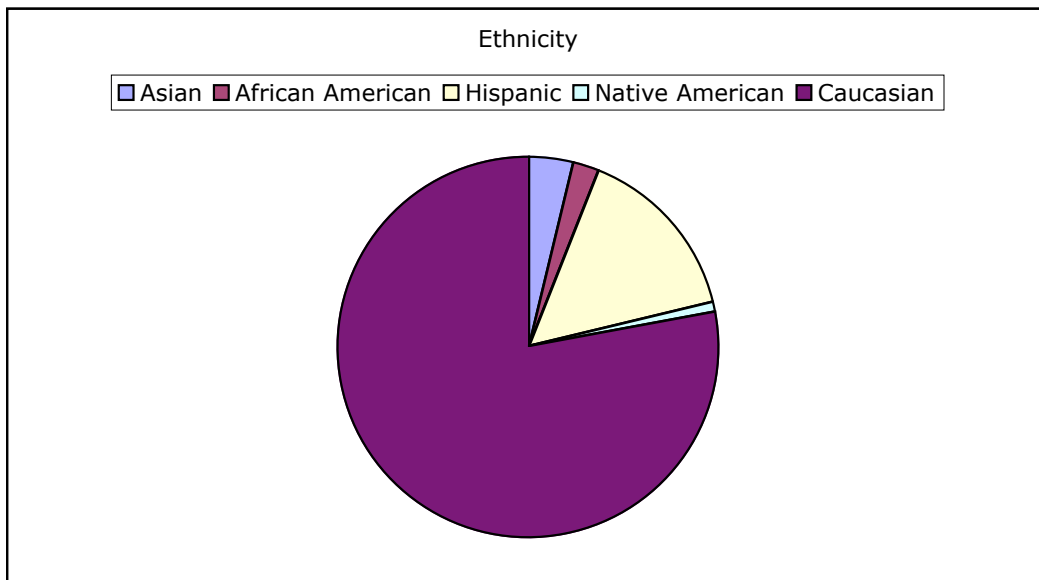
**Students:** 88,255

**Special Ed Students:** 9%

**LEP Students:** 6%

**Poverty:** 6%

**Ethnicity:** Asian 4%; African American 2%; Hispanic 15%; Native American 1%; Caucasian 78% (Market Data Retrieval. 2005. MDR's Colorado School Directory (28<sup>th</sup> ed.). Shelton, CT: Author.)



### Assessments

Patterson Elementary implemented *Spelling for Writers* in grades 1-6 during the 2005-2006 and assessed students' growth in spelling using the *Spelling for Writers* Benchmark Assessments administered in fall, winter, and spring and the spelling portion of the school's writing assessment, administered in fall and spring.

## Teacher Surveys

Teachers were asked to complete a mid-year survey on their thoughts about the *Spelling for Writers* program.

Common benefits of the program listed were:

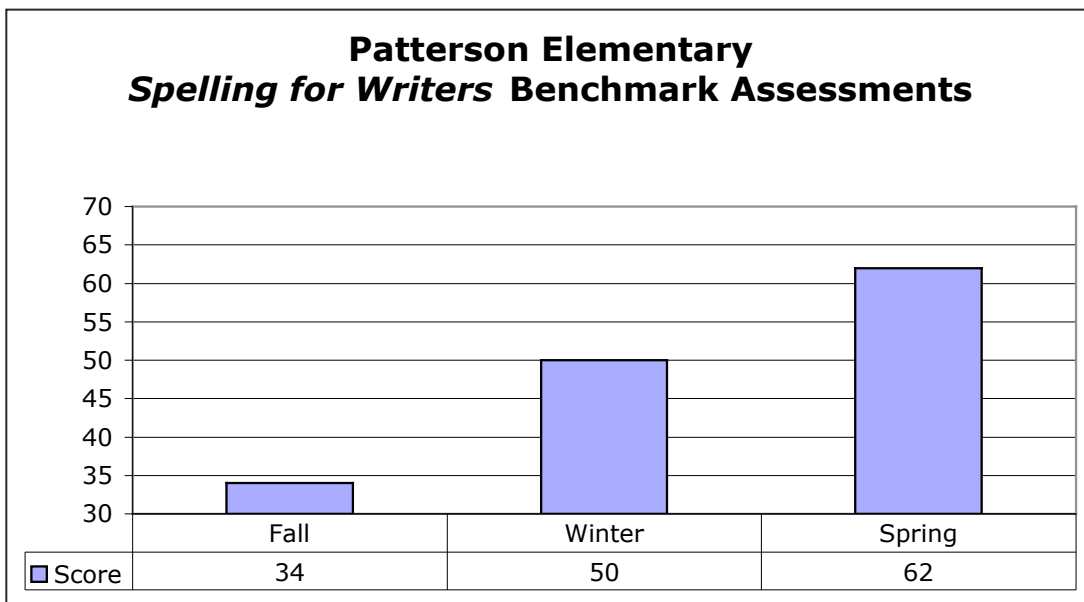
- Easy to differentiate instruction
- Easy planning
- Well organized

Common challenges of using the program were:

- No sight words
- Program doesn't require accountability for homework assignments
- Time consuming

## Test Score Results

Results from the *Spelling for Writers* Benchmarks Assessments show growth in students' proficiency with spelling. From fall to spring, 97% of students increased their proficiency with spelling and the combined score increased from 34% to 62%.



The results of the school’s spelling assessment (a section of the writing test) also show growth in students’ proficiency with spelling: The percentage of students who scored proficient or advanced increased 27 percentage points from fall to spring.

