

Points of Pride

- ♦ **International Baccalaureate** – South staff is actively pursuing I.B. primary years school authorization. This year staff members attended training and are working together to align curriculum that provides exciting learning opportunities for all students. I.B.'s aim is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.
- ♦ **Literacy Instructional Framework for Teaching (LIFT)** – South Elementary teachers are in their fifth year of LIFT implementation. All teachers at South are implementing these instructional strategies in the classroom to develop strong readers and writers.
- ♦ **Math Investigations** – Teachers at South continue to focus on the area of mathematics, using the Investigations series that develops critical thinkers and confident and successful mathematicians.
- ♦ **Positive Behavior Support program** – This is our fourth year of R.E.A.C.H., the Colorado Department of Education's Positive Behavior Support (PBS) initiative. It is school-wide program emphasizes direct instruction and research validated practices to develop a learning culture of Respect, Effort, positive Attitude, Citizenship and Honesty. At South, we have an environment where learning thrives!
- ♦ **Reading Recovery Program** – Special assistance for struggling kindergarten through second grade readers is provided through the Reading Recovery Program. It is program provides small group or one-on-one intensive reading instruction, in addition to the reading instruction students receive in the classroom.
- ♦ **English as a Second Language (ESL)** – South Elementary is also home to the ESL program that provides English acquisition skills to all second language learners. Again this year, South offers extended-day language instruction for those kindergarten students who are learning English.

About Our District

Douglas County School District is the third largest school district in Colorado and we remain one of the highest achieving and fastest growing districts in Colorado.

Superintendent Jim Christensen and the Board of Education attribute this continued success to a focus on students. Engaged parents, outstanding teachers and staff contribute greatly to student learning in our District. Our Vision is to help students acquire the knowledge and abilities to become responsible citizens who contribute to society.

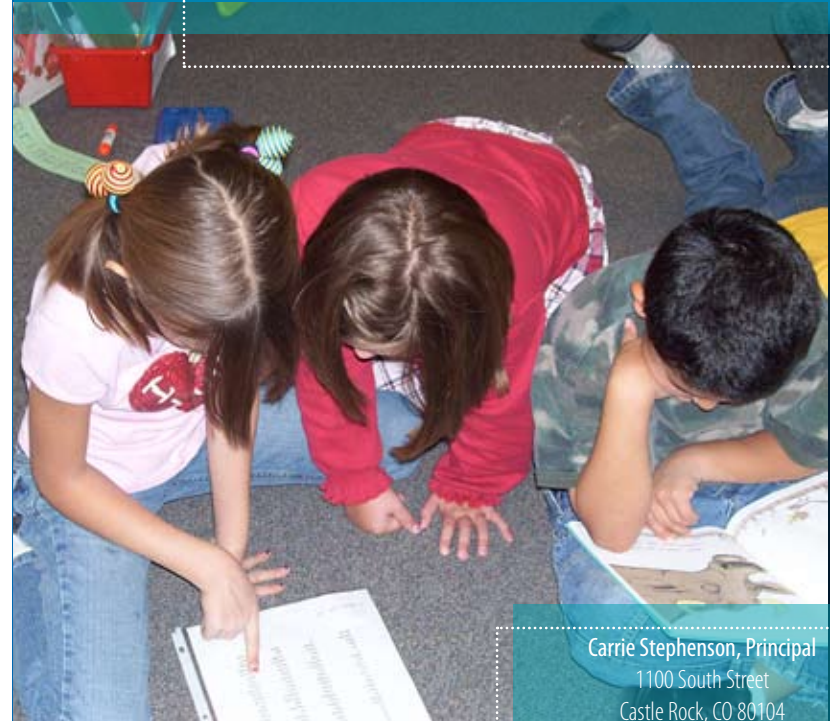
In addition to the information found in this school report, state-required accountability and accreditation information is also available in the Colorado Department of Education's "ONE REPORT," linked to the District web site at www.dcsdk12.org. Or, send an email to communications@dcsdk12.org for additional information.

We have outstanding students in our District who go far beyond what required reports can tell us. We celebrate their successes daily. Thank you for being part of our school community!

School Mission Statement

Through the partnership of the community, family and school, we will provide a secure environment where our children's gifts, knowledge, problem-solving skills and self-concepts are developed, encouraged and valued.

South Elementary School



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Principal's Perspective

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to communicate with you about this year's School Accountability Report (SAR). The 2008-09 SAR is another means for us to provide the South community with important facts, statistics and information about our school and District. South Elementary 2008 CSAP tests showed continued increases in student achievement. Eleven of the 13 CSAP assessments showed increased performance over the previous four year average.

This is a very exciting time at South Elementary. Through a process that included staff and our parent community, the decision was made to pursue the International Baccalaureate primary year programs to create learners who represent the I.B. learner profile traits:

<i>Knowledgeable</i>	<i>Reflective</i>
<i>Inquirer</i>	<i>Risk-takers</i>
<i>Caring</i>	<i>Communicators</i>
<i>Balanced</i>	<i>Thinkers</i>
<i>Principled</i>	<i>Open-minded</i>

Our staff is actively designing learning experiences that will maximize critical thinking experiences and South Elementary is proud of our balanced and integrated approach to learning. We believe it is our responsibility to know each child's needs, provide them with direct instruction at their individual level and challenge them to achieve their personal learning goals. Every teacher at South is equipped with the skills necessary to differentiate instruction for any level of learner.

Our School Improvement Plan helps us, as a staff, to focus on our school-wide achievement goals. By continuously looking at these goals and the data that measure them, we are able to collaborate and study the instructional strategies that we use. Also, based on this data, staff development learning opportunities are established. At South Elementary, staff development occurs on a weekly basis and teachers are continuous learners.

South Elementary cherishes the relationships that we build with our parents. Parents regularly volunteer more than 500 hours each month. Our Parent Teacher Community organization provides organized community events, student enrichment opportunities, volunteers for special projects and resources that help our students to achieve success both academically and socially. We are proud to be the hub of our community.

Sincerely,

Carrie Stephenson

Principal

Goals and Measures

School Improvement Goals

South Elementary's school improvement goals for the 2008-09 school year focus on the following areas:

- Student achievement in reading, writing and math
- Staff development
- School environment and culture
- Collaboration
- Leadership

Grades	Reading			Writing		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
6th	70	69	83	58	63	69
5th	68	73	78	50	49	64
4th	65	68	66	39	45	58
3rd	67	63	60	41	47	38

Grades	Math			Science		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
6th	56	58	66			
5th	57	59	69	36	41	35
4th	62	59	70			
3rd	67	63	56			

Student Achievement Goal

By June, 2009, the percentage of students that score at or above proficient on the CSAP tests will increase 5% in each content area. This measure will look specifically at cohort group data.