

# Implementation Spotlight

## Cherry Creek 5 School District



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

### Dropout Prevention Strategy: Persistence, Recovery, and Reengagement

*Develop programs to prepare students with the skills needed to successfully persist in graduating, allow students multiple methods for recovering content or credit when they have fallen behind, and identify students who have dropped out and support their transition back to school.*

#### Program Description

Expelled and At-Risk Student Services (EARSS), through the Colorado Department of Education, offers a grant to provide education and support services to expelled students, students at risk of being expelled, enrolled truant students and/or students who are at risk of being declared or already are habitually truant, and chronically absent students. The Cherry Creek School District is working with EARSS) partners to support students who are at risk of expulsion or who have been expelled and continue to receive educational services through the Compass program. The goal is to provide individualized support to students to help prepare them for their return to comprehensive high school. Examples of support include strengthening students' self-advocacy skills, connecting students to mental health services, and focusing on success criteria described in each student's expulsion order.

#### Outcomes and Measures

EARSS partners work with students to complete probation periods successfully to improve attendance and increase course completion.

#### Adaptations

In the first year, the district employed a part-time EARSS partner to work with identified students. Due to a need to have more consistent support, a full-time EARSS partner was placed at Compass.

#### Lessons Learned

The district shared that disciplinary practices differ across its comprehensive high schools, which has an impact on the ways EARSS partners engage with schools and students. For example, some schools are focused on restorative practices, whereas others rely on more traditional disciplinary practices (e.g., in-school suspension). The district has acknowledged difficulties in relying on qualitative data and is working to quantify data to create better consistency in identifying students and responding accordingly.



*Dedicated to Excellence*  
Cherry Creek Schools

#### About Us

District: Cherry Creek 5  
Region: Metro Area  
Locale: Urban-Suburban

#### Highlighted Strategies

- Persistence, Recovery, and Reengagement

#### Name of Program/Intervention

- EARSS partners

#### Implementation Stage

- Implementing

#### Outcomes and Measures

- Improve attendance
- Increase course completion

#### Students Served

- Early warning system-identified students