

Proposal for Charter School Status Reedsport School District #105 (Charter Law ORS Chapter 338)

1) Applicant: Reedsport Community Charter School, an Oregon nonprofit corporation

2) Name of Proposed School: Reedsport Community Charter School (“RCCS”)

3) Philosophy and Mission of Charter School: In order to build stronger working relationships among educators, parents, and other community members, Reedsport Community Charter School will take advantage of the school’s location, staff talents, and community opportunities to connect education and community so that students will see the relevance of their education to a local and global community around them. This vision, coupled with innovative learning techniques and Personalized Education Plans (PEPs), will make learning more meaningful to individual students and, in doing so, increase student performance on state assessments.

A standard classroom approach does not always consider differentiated instruction and learning. Teachers are already purveyors of knowledge; they need encouragement and training to shift their emphasis to becoming facilitators of knowledge. Providing a technology-infused curriculum combined with community partnerships will help to enable a meaningful learning experience. This will enhance the relationship with families, community entities, and other educators.

Reedsport Community Charter School will create a community-based, technology-infused, problem-solving curriculum for grades 7 through 12 incorporating state content standards aimed at preparing its students to meet or exceed state assessments as well as preparing them for life beyond school. The goals of RCCS are as follows:

- Increase student learning and achievement for all students
- Increase the choices of learning opportunities for students
- Better meet individual student academic needs and interests
- Build stronger working relationships among educators, parents, and other community members
- Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching and learning methods
- Create new professional development opportunities for staff members

4) Description of the Curriculum: The curriculum of Reedsport Community Charter School will fully incorporate Oregon State Content Standards. There will be three basic components to the educational program of Reedsport Community Charter School (ORS 338.105):

- 1) The school will develop community partnerships in core and elective classes.
- 2) Each student will develop a Personalized Education Plan (PEP) to enhance their motivation and ability to learn.
- 3) Staff will receive training in differentiated instruction and learning, with an emphasis on the use of 21st-century technology.

5) Description of Expected Results: The goal of Reedsport Community Charter School is for every student to make adequate yearly progress toward meeting or exceeding state and district standards. Longitudinal data accumulated by Reedsport School District #105 (“District”) over the last ten years will provide information upon which to assess the progress and success of RCCS.

Reedsport Community Charter School will provide a community school environment where students, teachers, parents, community members and administrative staff interact on a daily basis to provide an exceptional education to students. The core curriculum course offerings

of RCCS will be enhanced by courses taught by citizen instructors who have particular expertise in the subject. Students will be expected to interact with the community through participation in projects outside of school, and the community will be encouraged to interact with RCCS students through participation in projects within the school. (ORS 338.105)

6) Governance Structure of the Charter School: The initial Reedsport Community Charter School Governing Board (“Charter Board”) consists of a school director, Laura Davis; a Reedsport School District Board member, Terry Plotz; two teachers, Diana Gunn and Keith Tymchuk; three school patrons, Machel Dorsey, Tricia Law, and Kristen Zetzsche; and two students, Rebecca Hedges and Taylor Ladd. Term limits were set as follows: school director, five years; school board member, two years; students, two years or until graduation; and all others, three years. Terms shall be staggered to ensure continuity. As terms of office expire, the Charter Board will propose a slate of Charter Board Directors to the Reedsport School District Board of Education (“District Board”) for appointment by the District Board.

Reedsport Community Charter School will operate under Charter Law ORS Chapter 338 and the written charter. Principal responsibilities of the Charter Board will be determined in collaboration with the District Board. The Charter Board will oversee the planning of the curriculum for grades 7 through 12, hold regular board meetings, approve the budget and expenditures, and foster community relations.

7) Projected Enrollment and Grades to Be Served: Projected enrollment figures for Reedsport Community Charter School are based on the Reedsport Junior/Senior High School 2008-2009 beginning enrollment of 323 students. For the school year ending 2012, the projection is for an increased enrollment of 10 students, bringing the total to 333.

8) Target Population of Students to Be Served: Reedsport Community Charter School plans a diverse program serving grades 7 through 12 and targeted at the following groups: students currently enrolled in Reedsport Junior/Senior High School, home-schooled students, and private school students. In addition, at-risk or disconnected students will be encouraged to enroll in RCCS.

9) Distinctive Learning or Teaching Techniques to Be Used: Meeting the instructional needs of all learners requires a differentiated delivery system for all areas of the curriculum. This differentiation must be based on providing the appropriate level of support so that each student can progress in a continuous improvement model and attain his or her full potential as a literate citizen and lifelong learner. Reedsport Community Charter School is committed to utilizing the following instructional methods:

(a) Integrated/multi-disciplinary: When possible, the curriculum will be aligned around integrated interdisciplinary subjects. Classes will incorporate multi-disciplinary learning connected to community resources.

(b) Project-based method: Courses will involve hands-on, project-based instruction that requires students to produce digital projects. This will be a component of all classes, required or elective. This will be done individually or as a collaborative/team effort.

(c) Lecture/discussion method: Lectures and class discussions will revolve around the Socratic questioning method. Inquiry about broad-based, open-ended questions will require problem-solving techniques. All classes, whether required or elective, will have an emphasis on reading, writing, and presentation skills. All classes will also require the use of the digital world. This may include the use of digital equipment, i.e., computers and software, cameras, interactive whiteboards, MP3 players, and other technologies to support vocational areas in the school.

(d) Online courses: The uses of online education may include Advanced Placement, college classes, credit retrieval, and remedial instruction.

10) Legal Address, Facilities, and Physical Location: The current Reedsport Junior/Senior High School, at 2260 Longwood Drive, Reedsport, Oregon 97467, will transition into the Reedsport Community Charter School, which will remain in the same facility in the city of Reedsport.

11) Description of Admissions Policy: The goal of RCCS is to maintain its current enrollment of 323 students for the first two years of operation and to attract ten additional students per year until it has reached its capacity (500). In the event that more students apply for admission to Reedsport Community Charter School than can be accommodated, an objective, confidential lottery will be held to determine enrollment. Students who turn down the invitation to enroll or drop from the program after enrolling will be replaced by the next student in order of lottery selection. (ORS 338.125)

12) Applicable Statutes and Rules: All applicable federal and state laws and Oregon Administrative Rules will apply to Reedsport Community Charter School. (ORS 338.115)

13) Proposed Budget and Financial Plan: The proposed three-year budget (attached) includes monies from an Oregon Public Charter School Incentive Grant (“the Grant”) awarded to the Reedsport School District beginning with the 2009-2010 school year and ending with the 2012-2013 school year. The budget was developed based on an enrollment of 323 students and \$6,441 per ADMw (weighted average daily membership) for 2009-2010; 323 students and \$6,570 per ADMw for 2010-2011; and 333 students and \$6,701 per ADMw for 2011-2012. The 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 budget years reflect a 2% increase in revenue from the Oregon Department of Education for State School Support and a 3% cost of living increase in expenditures. The 2009-2010 budget year reflects revenue and expenditures for one-half of the school year based on the Reedsport Community Charter School opening on February 1, 2010. The fourth and fifth years (2012-2013, 2013-2014) of the budget will be structured and negotiated with the Reedsport School District Board using the same format and updated ADMw. Due to the projected continued increase in enrollment, it is expected that the increase of ADMw in the fourth and fifth years will replace the funding from the Incentive Grant, making Reedsport Community Charter School sustainable. (ORS 338.155)

Evidence of financial soundness is found in the existing budget and financial plan already in place and utilized by Reedsport School District #105.

14) Standards of Behavior and Discipline: Reedsport Community Charter School Board will adopt, with amendments and modifications as deemed necessary, those behavior and discipline policies in use by Reedsport School District #105. These policies are available for review at the school district office.

15) School Calendar: The school calendar for the 2009-2010 school year is attached. It will be the responsibility of the District Board to adopt the calendar for the 2010-2011 school year. School days are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

16) Staffing/Qualifications: There will initially be 19 teachers (17 FTE), 1 administrator (1 FTE), 3 secretaries (3 FTE), 7 paraprofessionals (6.5 FTE), 1 counselor (1 FTE), and 4.5 custodians (4.5 FTE). All certified and registered teachers will teach an Oregon Content Standard curriculum enriched by elective strands that create community connections.

17) Opening Date: February 1, 2010, the first day of the second semester/third quarter of the 2009-2010 school year.

18) Special Education Arrangements: Reedsport School District #105 and Reedsport Community Charter School will provide for the needs of those enrolled students who qualify under state and federal Special Education. RCCS will actively identify those students who qualify and will work with the South Coast Education Service District through resolution services to ensure maintenance of effort. (ORS 338.165)

19) Community Involvement: The Reedsport School District has a long tradition of parent and community involvement, and the results of a cooperative School Improvement Study between the District and the community have been the driving force behind the design and implementation of Reedsport Community Charter School. The community will continue to be provided opportunities to influence the development of the charter as well as the ongoing refinements and modifications during charter implementation. Public meetings will be held during the time in which the charter is being developed and after the fact, when the charter will be evaluated at least on an annual basis. Community representatives have the opportunity to serve on the Reedsport Community Charter School Board of Directors and various other volunteer committees that function within the school. Additionally, community members will have the opportunity to propose supplemental course offerings to the Charter Board covering subjects in which they have a particular interest and expertise.

20) Term of the Charter: The initial term of the charter will be five years from the date of signing. (ORS 338.065 (3)(a))

21) Plan for Performance Bonding/Insurance: The agreements, policies, and coverage with agencies currently insuring Reedsport School District #105 will be maintained by Reedsport Community Charter School. In the future these may be modified as determined necessary by the District Board.

22) Placement of Students, Staff, and Property Upon Termination/Non-Renewal of Charter: Termination of the charter shall not abridge Reedsport School District's legal authority to operate as a non-chartered (regular) public school district. In the event of termination or non-renewal of this charter, Reedsport School District shall follow the reduction in force provisions in any applicable collective bargaining agreements for licensed and classified employees or as otherwise provided by the Reedsport School District. If, as a result of termination or non-renewal of this charter, a determination is made to reconstitute the school as a regular public school, the District Board will, as staffing requirements permit and funding allows, and on the recommendation of the Superintendent, make every effort to rehire all staff employed by Reedsport Community Charter School at the time of its reconstitution as a regular public school.

If the school is reconstituted as a regular public school, all students currently enrolled will become enrolled students of the reconstituted school. Students currently attending outside the district will be allowed to continue with the existing inter-district agreements in place for one additional year. At the end of that school year, they will be considered resident students of the Reedsport School District and must either re-enroll or establish a new transfer agreement with the district.

All non-resident students may continue to be enrolled in the Reedsport School District for one additional year. At the end of that school year, they will be considered resident students of the district in which their custodial parent resides and must do one of three things: 1) enroll in a school within their residential district; 2) establish a transfer agreement with their resident district allowing them to enroll in the Reedsport School District; or 3) establish an agreement with the Reedsport School District to enroll without a release from their resident district.

In the event of a termination of this charter, all assets, equipment, supplies, and other items provided to Reedsport Community Charter School which were the property of Reedsport School District #105 prior to this charter or were added after the fact with funds belonging to

Reedsport School District #105 or are of a nature that their loss or absence would prevent the operation of the district or its programs after termination of this charter, shall be returned to or retained by Reedsport School District #105. All other assets shall be given to the State Board of Education with a request that they then be transferred to School District #105.(ORS 338.105)

23) Program Review/Fiscal Audit: The Charter Board will conduct the program review and may ask for the assistance of the Superintendent. The Charter Board will review student performance through assessment scores and other measures to be determined. The Charter Board will further evaluate student behavior, community satisfaction, and concerns. These reviews will be based on interviews and assessment analysis and may also include staff, student, and community surveys. The results of this review will be published annually in the form of a written report presented by the Charter Board in public session and filed with the District Board and the Oregon Department of Education.

The School Director will develop a balanced operating budget to be approved by the Charter Board and the District Board as part of the budgetary process. Reedsport Community Charter School will share Reedsport School District's designated auditor. Reedsport Community Charter School will report in writing to the district the manner in which RCCS intends to address any deficiencies in the audit. The Charter Board will maintain accounting records and keep all such records during the course of the Grant and for the three years following. ODE is permitted to audit, review, and inspect expenditures during this time. (ORS 338.095)

24) Conversion of an Existing Public School District:

a) Student enrollment shall be voluntary. Students who choose not to attend Reedsport Community Charter School have the option of being home schooled or of attending the Reedsport Educational Alternative Program (REAP), a private non-profit organization focusing on at-risk youth, teen parents and other youth who need special assistance to complete their schooling. Any student who resides within the district boundary but has opted out of attendance at Reedsport Community Charter School will be released by Reedsport School District #105 to the school of their choice. Students released under this provision will be provided transportation to and from the district boundary nearest their residence as part of a regularly scheduled route. Arranging transportation from this point to their school of choice will be the responsibility of the parent at no cost to Reedsport Community Charter School or to Reedsport School District #105. If the schedule of transportation provided by Reedsport Community Charter School is not convenient for the student, parent, or receiving district, it will be the responsibility of the student, parent, and receiving district to arrange and provide transportation at no cost to Reedsport Community Charter School or to Reedsport School District #105. (ORS 338.145)

b) Employment practices, policies, and agreements: Reedsport Community Charter School shall use the existing practices of Reedsport School District #105 regarding the selection and hiring, training, discipline, and firing or its teaching, administrative, and operations staff with the exception of those changed by waiver or mutual consent of parties in a collective bargaining agreement. During the life of this charter, Reedsport Community Charter School will implement policies in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and collective bargaining agreements in effect at the time of the charter signing regarding recruitment, promotion, discipline, and termination of personnel; methods for evaluating performance; and a plan for resolving employee-related problems, including complaint and grievance procedures shall remain in effect for the remaining length of the agreement. Employees' payroll shall be processed through the office manager of RCCS according to existing Reedsport School District #105 payroll procedures unless changed during the life of this charter. (ORS 338.135)

c) Employee assignment to the charter school shall be voluntary. However, as RCCS will be the only school for grades 7-12 located within Reedsport School District #105, there are no alternative assignments available within the district to staff members who choose not to participate in the charter school. Therefore, any staff member who is under contract at the time of the charter signing and who chooses not to participate in the charter school shall be released from their contract if they request such a release at least 30 days prior to the charter going into effect. All contracts and agreements with staff members in effect at the time the school becomes chartered shall remain in effect for the remaining term of such contract or agreement. (ORS 338.135)