

Annex Charter School
402 Annex Road
Ontario, OR 97914

Sharona Olsen, Project Director
5275 Buckhorn Road, Ontario, OR 97914
(208)740-0367 loranch@ruralnetwork.net

Project Abstract

Annex Charter School has five primary goals for the coming year. First, we are wholeheartedly dedicated to improving our students' state test scores. Second, we intend to focus on community outreach, working hard to encourage the involvement of both parents and area residents. Third, we plan to invest both time and energy on staff development. Our reasoning here is that the more strategies our teachers master, the more effective their instruction will be and, consequently, the more successful our students will be. Next, we expect to continue ongoing curriculum refinement and to make additional equipment purchases. And finally, we plan to devote considerable time and energy to preparation for the assessment and evaluation of the success of our charter.

Located near the Snake River in Malheur County, Oregon, Annex opened its doors as a full-fledged charter school in the 2011-2012 school year. However, the school itself has been around since the early part of the last century. It is the only school in the district and prior to converting to a charter school was a traditional public school. Our primary focus as a charter school has been to better serve our diverse student population by creating customized achievement plans for each student. We identify their strengths and weaknesses, then devise strategies to both build on their strengths and remediate their weaknesses. Because Annex is a K-8 school with multi-grade classrooms, we are able to efficiently group students according to their ability levels. Identified weaknesses are addressed with direct instruction, then reinforced with independent practice, hands-on activities, and technology-based assignments. Conversely, students who are working above grade level are given opportunities to face higher-level challenges to maximize their potential.

At the time Annex converted to a charter school, we received the Oregon Public Charter School Incentive Grant. Unfortunately, between the planning and implementation phases of the grant, we learned that we would not receive additional funding for the implementation and continued implementation phases of our plan. The budget we are proposing for this non-SEA charter school grant is \$229,947 for years one and two. In the first year of the grant we plan to spend \$192,157 on staff development, training stipends, equipment, curriculum, advertising, travel, and supplies. Proposed expenditures for year two total an additional \$37,790. The funds would cover supplies, travel, staff development, training stipends, and advertising.

Annex is very fortunate to have strong support from our District #29 Board of Directors, the community, the staff, and Eric Milburn, who serves as both our school district superintendent and our charter school principal. All of us share a common goal: providing the best possible education for our students.