

**Abstract**  
**River's Edge Academy Charter School Development Project**

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In the Spring 2009, a group of parents & community members in Rogue River School District concerned about the high drop-out rate & the lack of education options, within Rogue River School District—began exploring alternatives. RRSD, a comprehensive K-12 district, serving 962 students was clearly a district in need. The minority population is over 26%. The poverty index is high with over 55% of elementary students receiving free & reduced lunch. Approximately **30% of RRSD students did not meet** the growth target in **language arts, math or science**. **30% of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students did not meet Language Arts** standards & almost 50% of all students **did not meet Math** standards. The district has not met AYP for three years. **The cohort graduation rate was only 67.3%**. The attendance rate is below the State average at 92.3%. The Special Education population is 16.3%—higher than the State average. (AYP Report Card 2010-2011) Initial concern grew into a vision— an innovative approach to K-12 education which would individualize & personalize learning. This school would be called River's Edge Academy Charter School (*REACH*). The vision was to offer a standards based, blended, *personalized learning* program, supported by the principles of multiple intelligence, competency based education, mentoring/service learning, technology & vocational readiness to students in grades K-12 that will provide academic excellence, prevent dropout, increase dropout retrieval & promote choice in education.

The goals of this Implementation (Year 2 only) **grant project** are as follows:

- ▶ Develop high quality, standards based Personalized Learning school with an emphasis on multiple intelligences, competency based education, place based learning, mentoring/service learning, community partnerships, innovative assessments, Career/Vocational Education & Technology for grades K-12, that will promote high academic achievement & varied curricular options.
  
- ▶ Develop community partnerships/mentorships, including active parent participation that will enhance the academic program, prevent dropout, improve dropout retrieval and improve college attendance.
  
- ▶ Develop a school environment that promotes diversity and respect for self and others.

REACH has a 2 year signed contract with RRSD, signed 6/8/2011. REACH was awarded a Planning/Implementation grant from the Oregon Department of Education in 2010 & received Planning & Year 1 Implementation funding. REACH could not access year 2 Implementation funding because the Oregon Department of Education was not awarded funds in the SEA grant rounds 2011 or 2012. REACH opened on a shoe string budget, September 2011 with **100 students**, grades K-12 but without a second year of Implementation funding cannot achieve its full mission and vision.