

Abstract Sauvie Island Academy (SIA)

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Sauvie Island, one of our nation's only rural, river islands is located at the confluence of the Columbia & Willamette Rivers, a beautiful, rural, natural area located on the doorstep of Portland, Oregon. When budget cuts within Scappoose School District threatened closure of the island's only school, Sauvie Island School (SIS) (K-6), parents envisioned converting SIS to a K-8, high quality charter school, Sauvie Island Academy. Rural & somewhat isolated, Sauvie Island Academy charter is sponsored by Scappoose School District, clearly a district in need. Special education is almost 12% within the district as a whole. 28% are economically disadvantaged. Scappoose School District has not met AYP for over three years. 54% of 4th grade students did not meet math standards and 26% of 5th graders did not meet Reading standards (Report Card 2010-2011). The district cohort graduation rate is only 82%. The minority population is 17% with the largest group being Hispanic. The development team for Sauvie Island Academy saw an opportunity to impact the education of our children in a positive way. With strong community support, the mission of SIA is to use the principles of Place Based Education to teach grades K-8 children, to become stewards of the natural world; to think critically, communicate effectively & excel academically & to become empowered global citizens.

The goals of this Implementation **grant project** are as follows:

- ▶ Develop a high quality, standards based charter school, grades K-8, with an emphasis on the Place Based Education, mentoring, infused with the principles of project based instruction, the values of stewardship of the natural world, service learning, thematic instruction and the National Technology Standards & Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports that will promote high academic achievement & varied curricular options.
- ▶ Develop community partnerships/mentorships, including active parent participation that will enhance the academic program, reduce drop out, increase drop out retrieval and ultimately increase college attendance of our students.
- ▶ Develop a school environment that promotes diversity and respect for self and others.

Sauvie Island Academy has a 3 year contract with Scappoose School District, signed June 6, 2011. SIA is a 501 C3, & has completed the Planning Phase. SIA was awarded a Planning/Implementation grant from the Oregon Department of Education and received \$56,000 in Planning funds in 2010. SIA could not access the Implementation Funds because the Oregon Department of Education was not awarded funds in the SEA grant rounds 2011 or 2012. SIA opened on a shoe string budget, September 2011 with **166 students**, grades K-7 but without grant funds cannot achieve its full mission and vision. SIA will add an 8th grade class beginning 2012-2013.