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Our initiative was ignited by a group of parents' interest in building a charter school using the Waldorf methods in Applegate Valley, Oregon. The Waldorf educational approach offers a proven educational model benefiting all students including at-risk youth. Our initiative would establish the 5th Waldorf public charter school in Oregon.

Our target student population is from the Applegate Valley area and vicinity, a rural region in Southern Oregon with a student population of less than 5,000 students. Currently, approximately 68% of these students are in the free and reduced school lunch program, as indicated by Three Rivers School District, our authorizing agency. We plan to open the school in September 2012, with grade 1-6 in combination classes, and have an initial enrollment target of 75 students. Each following year, we will add one grade until the school reaches 8th grade for an expected total of 100 students.

WCS was a sub-grantee for the Planning Phase from the Charter School Program (CSP) grant administered by Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in July of 2010. We were recently notified by the State Educational Agency that Implementation funding from the SEA's CSP sub-grant is no longer available. This grant application for the Implementation Phase will enable us to create a high quality charter school for under-served students in our area. The proposed school will use the well established Waldorf teaching methods addressing the educational and developmental needs of the whole child. In addition, the school plans to incorporate Waldorf innovative assessment methods that will provide comprehensive and measureable results of student multi-dimensional learning from this holistic education.