

Abstract
Butte Falls Charter School

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The concept for Butte Falls Charter School (BFCS), a rural, high poverty school originated in Spring 2010, when parents, community members & staff, concerned about low assessment results, repeated failure to make Adequate Yearly Progress & limited curricular choices within Butte Falls School, considered improving options by having the district become a charter conversion. The vision was to partner with the community to create an enriched educational environment that would individualize the needs of our rural students & prepare them to be highly productive members of the global society. This rural district school population, at 160, is clearly high-risk. Special education (20%) is significantly higher than the state average. **71% of students are on Free/Reduced lunch.** Over **45 %** of all students (2011-2012 Report Card) **did not** meet state standards in Language Arts & Science & almost **65% did not** meet standards in Math. The minority population is approximately 10 %. The cohort graduation rate is 81%. The mission of Butte Falls Charter School is to provide a high quality, rigorous academic program, aligned with the Common Core & Oregon Content Standards that will provide a diversity of K-12 learning options, infused with the National Technology Standards, Oregon State University's K-12 Natural Resources Curriculum & incorporating the principles of multiple intelligences, place based education, competency/proficiency based learning, Individual Learning Plans, service learning/mentoring & enhanced Career Technical Educational opportunities. This vision will utilize the strong ties that exist between the school & the local community, preventing dropout, increasing dropout retrieval & increasing college attendance.

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

- ▶ Develop a high quality charter school with an emphasis on a personalized, Placed Based Education, environmental awareness & natural resources 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.

BFCS **has a signed charter contract** (11/13/12) with Butte Falls School District and a functioning Charter Council. Butte Falls Charter School opened as a pilot for the charter conversion in **November 2012** with 160 K-12 students but without grant funds cannot achieve its full vision and mission. As a rural, high poverty school with a Free/Reduced lunch rate of 71%, BFCS meets the criteria of the Absolute Priority.