

SSCS ANNUAL REPORT

Overview





Four Rivers Community School
2449 S.W. 4th Avenue
Ontario, OR 97914

541-889-3715 phone
541-889-3718 fax

www.4riverscs.org

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Executive Director
Chelle Robins



A State of Oregon Sponsored Public Charter School

December 1, 2013

Dear Members of the Oregon State Board of Education,

As the co-founder and Executive Director, I write this letter with excitement and a commitment to education. Thank you for allowing us to share the celebrations that have been accomplished at Four Rivers Community School in the last 11 years.

To begin and offer some background, the school is a start-up, brick and mortar, dual language immersion program designed by teachers. The school strives to recruit underserved populations, promote a culture of biliteracy, provide students with the skills needed to attend institutions of higher education, and build engaging partnerships with parents.

In the fall of 2003, FRCS began in a big open cinderblock warehouse with 25 half day kindergarteners and 25 full day first graders. We had two teachers and 1 instructional assistant. In the summer of 2007, FRCS was able to secure funding and purchased two buildings totaling 26,000 square feet on 4.5 acres. We completely renovated the buildings and have an amazing state of the art facility for the most deserving families! Today the school serves 255 students in grades K-8. The demographics of our learners are reflected with 78% Hispanic and 21% Caucasian. Forty-four percent are identified as English Language Learners. Four Rivers Community School is a School Wide Title I school with 79% of students qualifying for free and reduced lunches. We proudly have 26 employees and strive to have employees that reflect our student population. Sixty-four percent of our employees are Hispanic and 36% Caucasian, we feel that we offer families an educational experience that fosters trust, cultural appreciation and place high values on college education through our teacher models. According to data recently released from the Oregon Department of Education, FRCS is the most diverse charter school in Oregon.

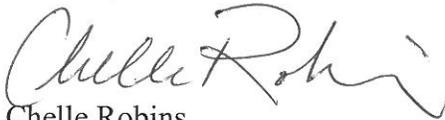
In working toward our goal of getting our students to college, we have a partnership (MOU) with Eastern Oregon University. The Center for Teaching and Learning, located on our campus, provides opportunities for pre-service teachers, FRCS faculty, EOU research faculty, and students. In addition to our work with EOU, students visit colleges and universities every year beginning at fourth grade. By the time they graduate from our program in 8th grade they have visited at least 8 institutions of higher education. FRCS graduates have great incentive to go to college with approximately 85% of our 8th grade graduates receiving 12-24 college credits through CLEP. These college credits also allow our students to receive high school credit and provide them with an opportunity to take other courses in preparation for college. Upon graduation from FRCS, students are presented a certificate of admission from EOU that provides a fastrack to EOU after high school graduation.

We are still tracking our students and our first graduates are now juniors. We still keep in contact with and their families and are beginning to host informational nights focused on college options and requirements. We recently hosted the Oregon College Night in Spanish.

Four Rivers Community School strives to be a leader in whole family education and is committed to building a new Family Education Facility on our campus. This facility would help us share dual language literacy with our Head Start neighbors, current families and other community members. We understand that our role in education is bigger than educating children ages 5-13, we have an obligation and social responsibility to increase literacy skills in our preschoolers, our parent population and our community. FRCS broke ground in November 2013 for the new Family Education Center and recently received a grant for \$150,000 from The Ford Family Foundation. The 10,500 square foot facility is expected to be completed in June 2014.

We appreciate the support of the State Board of Education and the Oregon Department of Education. We are continually growing through professional development and feel inspired to continue our important work! It is our hope that you will be able to visit our school in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chelle Robins". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Chelle Robins

Executive Director