

**Charter Agreement  
Alsea School District 7J  
(Charter Law ORS Chapter 338)**

**1) Applicant:** Alsea Charter School.

**2) Name of Proposed School:** Alsea Charter School (ACS)

**3) Philosophy and Mission of Charter School:** To build stronger working relationships among educators, parents, and other community members, Alsea Charter School will take advantage of the school's location, staff talents, and community connections to educate and integrate relevance on a local and global scale. This vision will make learning more meaningful to individual students and, in doing so, increase student performance on state assessments and graduation rate.

A standard classroom approach does not always consider differentiated instruction and learning. Teachers are already purveyors of knowledge; they need encouragement and training to shift their emphasis to becoming facilitators of knowledge. Providing a technology-infused curriculum combined with community partnerships will help to enable a meaningful learning experience. This will enhance the relationship with families, the community, and educators.

Alsea Charter School will create a community-based, technology-infused, problem-solving curriculum for grades Kindergarten through 12 incorporating state content standards aimed at preparing its students to meet or exceed state assessments, build leadership skills, and prepare students for life beyond school. The goals of ACS are as follows:

- Increase student learning and achievement for all students.
- Increase the choices of learning opportunities for students.
- Better meet individual student academic needs and interests.
- Increase leadership skills for all students.
- Build stronger working relationships among educators, parents, and other community members.
- Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching and learning methods.

**4) Description of the Curriculum:** The curriculum of Alsea Charter School will fully incorporate the Common Core/Oregon State Content Standards. There will be four basic components to the educational program of Alsea Charter School (ORS 338.105):

- 1) Develop community partnerships in core and elective classes.
- 2) Each student will develop a Personalized Education Plan (PEP) to enhance motivation and ability to learn.
- 3) Staff will teach approved Common Core Curriculum.
- 4) An emphasis on skill building and leadership development will be present throughout the curriculum.

**5) Description of Expected Results:** The goal of Alsea Charter School is for every student to make adequate yearly progress toward meeting or exceeding state and district standards. Longitudinal data accumulated by Alsea School District 7J ("District") will provide information upon which to assess the progress and success of ACS.

Alsea Charter School will provide a community school environment where students, teachers, parents, community members and administrative staff interact daily to provide an exceptional education to students. The core curriculum course offerings of ACS will be enhanced

by courses taught by TSPC certified instructors who have expertise in the subject. Students will be expected to interact with the community through participation in projects outside of school. The community will be encouraged to interact with ACS students through participation in projects within the school. (ORS 338.105)

**6) Governance Structure of the Charter School:** The Alsea Charter School Governing Board (“Charter Board”) consists of the duly elected School Board Members of the Alsea School District 7J. As a conversion district, ACS will retain its current governance structure of five board members representing at large positions within the school district.

Alsea Charter School will operate under Charter Law ORS Chapter 338 and the written charter. The Board will continue to oversee all fiduciary and curricular planning and adoptions, hold regular board meetings, approve the budget and expenditures, and foster community relations.

**7) Projected Enrollment and Grades to Be Served:** Projected enrollment figures for Alsea Charter School were based on the Alsea School District 7J 2016-2017 beginning enrollment of 139 students in grades K-12. Initially, gradual growth allowed for a smoother implementation and expansion of programs and services annual growth targets. However, due to the success of the previous years and expanding growth, total in-building/on-site enrollment cap will be at 325 and a total enrollment of all school levels and programs of 1,200. The School Board reserves the right to set annual growth limits for each of the following school levels and programs: Elementary, Middle School, High School, Learn at Home Oregon, and Alsea Online.

**8) Target Population of Students to Be Served:** Alsea Charter School will serve grades KG – 12 using innovative and diverse instructional programs that target a wide variety of students, such as those served on-site/in building, virtually through Alsea Online, and home-based learning, “Learn at Home Oregon,” as well as additional off-site locations/programs to expand and enrich curriculum.

**9) Distinctive Learning or Teaching Techniques to Be Used:** Meeting the instructional needs of all learners requires a differentiated delivery system for all areas of the curriculum. This differentiation must be based on providing the appropriate level of support so each student can progress in a continuous improvement model and attain his or her full potential as a literate citizen and lifelong learner. Alsea Charter School is committed to utilizing the following instructional methods:

**(a) Project-based method:** Courses will involve hands-on, lab, and/or project-based instruction that require students to produce digital assignments, and/or tactile products. This will be a component of most classes, required or elective. This will be done individually or as a collaborative/team effort.

**(b) Lecture/discussion method:** Inquiry about broad-based, open-ended questions will require problem-solving techniques. All classes, whether honors, core-required, or elective, will have an emphasis on reading, writing, and presentation skills. All classes will also require the use of technology. This may include the use of digital equipment, i.e., computers and software, cameras, interactive whiteboards, and other technologies to support vocational areas in the school. Either iPads or Chromebooks will be provided for each student. Whether provided in classroom or on a “loan-basis” will be dependent upon program enrollment and grade level.

**(c) Online courses:** The use of the online education programs are in-house, and may include Advanced Placement, dual credit/college classes, credit recovery, tutorial and remedial instruction.

**(d) Leadership Skill Building:** Embedded throughout the curriculum will be opportunities to lead and recognize how skills taught in the classroom develop leadership qualities and capabilities.

**(e) Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM):** The K-6 students will have access to the STEAM program and associated enrichment curriculum to include appropriate digital technology. Middle and High School students will each be provided with a Chromebook or equivalent device for use in their respective courses/curricula. STEAM, Career and Technical Education opportunities will be provided and incorporate the usage of welding, wood, metal, and machine (milling, lathe, and surface grinding) shop.

**10) Legal Address, Facilities, and Physical Location:** Alsea Charter School’s primary address is 301 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Alsea, Oregon 97324, remaining at the same facility in the community of Alsea. The district retains ownership of all facilities, equipment, and supplies. The charter owns no physical assets.

**11) Description of Admissions Policy:** The goal of ACS is to capitalize enrollment with a maximum of 325 student on-site/inbuilding. See Appendix A for specific guidelines.

**12) Applicable Statues and Rules:** All applicable federal and state laws and Oregon Administrative Rules will apply to Alsea Charter School. (ORS 338.115)

**13) Proposed Budget and Financial Plan:** The budget will be based on the state school fund factored on enrollment for the current year or the previous year, whichever is highest. Evidence of financial soundness is found in the existing Alsea School District budget and financial plan already in place and utilized by Alsea School District 7J.

**14) Standards of Behavior and Discipline:** Alsea Charter School Board will adopt those behavior and discipline policies in use by Alsea School District 7J. These policies are available for review at the school district office.

**15) School Calendar:** The school calendar each year of this agreement will be approved by the Alsea School Board in a public Board Meeting. School Days are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. on a four-day week schedule.

**16) Staffing/Qualifications:** All certified and registered teachers will teach an Oregon Content Standard curriculum enriched by elective strands that create community connections. In addition, all certified and registered teachers must meet TSPC licensure standards (certified and registered), and have appropriate academic, and/or career experience.

**17) Opening Date:** The Board is to set each school years’ beginning date by approval of the school year calendar at the April board meeting.

**18) Special Education Arrangements:** Alsea School District 7J and Alsea Charter School will service the needs of enrolled students who qualify for state and federal Special Education. ACS will actively identify students who qualify and will work with the Education Service District through resolution services to ensure maintenance of effort. (ORS 338.165)

**19) Community Involvement:** The Alsea School District encourages parent and community involvement. Public Board Meetings will be held monthly, and progress will be monitored/guided through the public meetings process, during which the community will be provided opportunities to influence the development, refinement, and modifications of the charter. Additionally, staff and community members will have the opportunity to propose supplemental course offerings to the School Board covering subjects in which they have a particular interest and expertise. All supplemental course proposals will be evaluated by the School Administrative Team with input from the School Board to ensure compatibility with ACS's philosophy and mission. The Course Proposal document is located in Appendix B.

**20) Term of the Charter:** The initial term of the charter will be five years renewable from the date of signing. (ORS 338.065 (3)(a))

**21) Plan for Performance Bonding/Insurance:** The agreements, policies, and coverage with agencies currently insuring Alsea School District 7J will be maintained by Alsea Charter School. In the future these may be modified as determined necessary by the District Board.

**22) Placement of Students, Staff, and Property upon Termination/Non-Renewal of Charter:** Termination of the charter shall not abridge Alsea School District's legal authority to operate as a non-chartered (regular) public school district. In the event of termination or non-renewal of this charter, Alsea School District shall follow the reduction in force provisions in any applicable collective bargaining agreements for licensed and classified employees or as otherwise provided by the Alsea School District. If a determination is made to reconstitute the school as a regular public school, due to termination or non-renewal of this charter, the District Board will, as staffing requirements permits, funding allows, and the recommendation of the Superintendent, make every effort to rehire all staff employed by Alsea Charter School at the time of its reconstitution as a regular public school.

If the school is reconstituted as a regular public school, all students currently enrolled will become enrolled students in the reconstituted school. Students currently attending outside the district will be allowed to continue with an existing inter-district agreement.

In the event of a termination of this charter, all assets, equipment, supplies, and other items provided to Alsea Charter School which were the property of Alsea School District 7J prior to this charter or were added after the fact with funds belonging to Alsea School District 7J or are of a nature that their loss or absence would prevent the operation of the district or its programs after termination of this charter, shall be returned to or retained by Alsea School District 7J. All other assets shall be given to the Alsea School District. (ORS 338.105)

**23) Program Review/Fiscal Audit:** The School Board will conduct the program review and may ask for the assistance of the Superintendent. The School Board will review student performance through assessment scores and other measures to be determined. The School Board will further evaluate student behavior, community satisfaction, and concerns/feedback. These reviews will be based on assessment analysis and may also include staff, student, and community surveys. The

results of this review will be published annually in the form of a written report presented by the School Board in public session and filed in the public record.

The School Superintendent will develop a balanced operating budget to be approved by the District Budget Committee and School Board as part of the current budgetary process. Alsea Charter School will retain Alsea School District's designated auditor. Alsea Charter School will report in writing to the district the manner, in which ACS intends to address any deficiencies in the audit. ODE is permitted to audit, review, and inspect expenditures during this time. (ORS 338.095)

#### **24) Conversion of an Existing Public School District:**

**a) Student enrollment shall be voluntary.** Students who choose not to attend Alsea Charter School have the option of being home schooled or request an inter-district transfer. Any student who resides within the district boundary but has opted out of attendance at Alsea Charter School will be released by the Alsea School District 7J to the school of their choice. If the schedule of transportation for established routes provided by Alsea Charter School is not convenient for the outgoing student, parent, or receiving district, it will be the responsibility of the student, parent, and receiving district to arrange and provide transportation at no cost to Alsea Charter School or to Alsea School District 7J. (ORS 338.145)

**b) Employment practices, policies, and agreements:** Alsea Charter School shall use the existing practices of Alsea School District 7J regarding the selection, hiring, training, discipline, and termination of teaching, administrative, and operations staff except for those changed by waiver or mutual consent of parties in a collective bargaining agreement. During the life of this charter, Alsea Charter School will implement policies in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and collective bargaining agreements in effect at the time of the charter signing regarding recruitment, promotion, discipline, and termination of personnel; methods for evaluating performance; and a plan for resolving employee-related problems, including complaint and grievance procedures shall remain in effect for the remaining length of the agreement. Employees' payroll shall be processed through the business office of the Alsea School District 7J unless changed during the life of this charter. (ORS 338.135)

**c) Employee assignment to the charter school shall be voluntary.** As ACS will be the only school for grades K-12 located within Alsea School District 7J, alternative assignments are not available within the district to staff members who choose not to participate in the charter school. Therefore, any staff member who is under contract at the time of the charter signing and who chooses not to participate in the charter school shall be released from their contract if they request such a release at least 30 days prior to the charter going into effect. All contracts and agreements with staff members in effect at the time the school becomes chartered shall remain in effect for the remaining term of such contract or agreement. (ORS 338.135)

Approved this 12 day of July 2021.

  
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, District Board Chair

  
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Marc Thielman, Superintendent

## Appendix A:

### ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

#### ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE

Alsea Charter School will accept enrollment requests from out of district students. Priority registration and application will be set for June 1<sup>st</sup> – June 15<sup>th</sup>. **IF** grade level caps are not fulfilled, applications received by June 15<sup>th</sup> will be considered first. Secondary consideration new applicants will be August 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Registrations and applications will be accepted in the following order:

1. In-district students
2. Students who attended and were enrolled in June of the prior school year
3. Siblings of current students who attended and were enrolled in June of the prior school year
4. Applications received by the June 15<sup>th</sup> priority deadline
5. Applications for admission that are received after the previous considerations will be determined by an objective, confidential lottery.
  - a. Students who turn down the invitation to enroll or drop from the program after enrolling will be replaced by the next student in order of lottery selection.

### CLASSROOM PARAMETERS

#### ELEMENTARY, K-5

Enrollment of out-of-district students for Elementary classrooms [not grade level] will be capped at 23 students. All in-district students will be accepted, even if acceptance exceeds the cap. A lower classroom cap retains flexibility in the event of an influx of in-district elementary students.

As funding allows, Elementary class structures will be configured to best serve elementary students, with the goal of keeping class-sizes small and the adult-to-student ratio near current levels.

If by August 1<sup>st</sup>, Elementary enrollment numbers are not sufficient for stand alone grades, classrooms will be maintained at the current combination. Enrollment will be held at the cap of 23 students **per classroom**.

**MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL, 6-12**

Enrollment of Middle and High School students will be capped at 23 students per grade level. All in-district students will be accepted, even if acceptance exceeds the cap. As of 2021, OSAA 1A HS limit is 95 students, 9-12. This grade level limitation retains flexibility in the event of an influx of in-district high school students.

Once a student has arrived for their first day of school, acceptance to the Charter school will not be revoked on the grounds of enrollment caps.

**Appendix B:**

**COURSE PROPOSAL - DESCRIPTION**

**COURSE NAME:** Name of the Proposed Course

**TEACHER:** Who would teach the course?

**DURATION:** Usually expressed in Quarter / Semester / Year.

**DESCRIPTION:** This part should give a broad overview of the course. In doing so it will probably spell out:

- The format for the course (lecture, lecture discussion, workshop, lab, etc.)
- The kinds of exercises used, if any (small or large group, individual, role play, etc.)
- A one sentence statement of the objectives of the course.

**RATIONALE:** A statement of why this course is valuable both to the school district and community.

**BENEFITS OF ATTENDING:** It should also state what, specifically, the participant will take away from the session and apply back on the job that they did not have before the class.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** Who should take the course? How many during one class time?

**PREREQUISITES:** What do the students need to have taken beforehand (if anything)?

**OBJECTIVES:** At the completion of this workshop the participant will be able to:  
Examples Below:

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- Identify six common .....
- Discuss the familiar concepts .....
- Bookmark those most important sections of the .....
- Describe at least two .....
- Familiarize their work group with the instructions for .....
- Fill out a “To Do” list of their most urgent action items related to

**MATERIALS:** A complete list of materials. This will probably include, but is not limited to:

- Participants’ Handouts
- Room Visuals (Flip Chart or White Board w/Markers, etc.)
- Overheads and Projector
- Internet Access requirements
- Consumable Supplies (markers, envelopes, lab supplies, etc.)
- Course Evaluation forms
- Other Handouts
- Any Videos Used



**COURSE PROPOSAL - TEMPLATE**

**COURSE NAME:**

**TEACHER:**

**DURATION:**

**DESCRIPTION:**

**RATIONALE:**

**BENEFITS OF ATTENDING:**

**TARGET AUDIENCE:**

**PREREQUISITES:**

**OBJECTIVES:**

**MATERIALS:**