

Program/Position Descriptors

Program/Position Name: **4/5 Grade Music**

Descriptor Author(s): **Deanna Wiseman**

Please describe this program or position. This description should include the work done and the benefits connected to our organization and students. **At this time, all 4th and 5th graders get ½ hour of music every week. In this introduction to music class, students are introduced to musical skills and concepts such as rhythm, music exploration, pitch, instrument type and their classification, and playing as an ensemble on the recorder. With this introduction to music, the RMMS music program grew from 6 in beginning band last year to 35 this year. The beginning band is far above average, thanks in large part to the preparation they received last year in this class. In addition to learning basic music skills, the students have a very positive group musical experience, which is helping build enrollment in the Riverside Meadows band program, and laying the foundation for more successful band students. Without this program, I know that Riverside's program would not be as big and successful. Our advanced band is currently 20 students. Next year it has the potential to nearly double in size. The 4/5 music classes have had a direct influence on this trend. If Plumas Lake Elementary School District wants their students to be well rounded individuals that have a broad range of educational experiences, this introduction to music is imperative.**

Please describe in what ways a cut to this program or position could negatively affect the district from your perspective: **By offering music at the elementary school level, Plumas Lake is able to be competitive with other districts in the area. As a result of this class, our students are more well-rounded and more prepared for middle school. We are less likely to attract inter-district transfer students, and will be less appealing to parents looking at different districts before buying a home, if this program is eliminated. There is a large body of research to substantiate that students with music experience have higher test scores in other academic areas, and are generally more successful. Consequently, cutting the elementary music classes would be detrimental to our students, and to the district. There also would likely be a reduction in numbers in the Riverside Meadows band program, since the incoming students at Riverside would have less of an informed background when choosing electives.**

Please describe in what ways a cut to this program or position will positively affect the district from your perspective. **There is no educational benefit to students in cutting 4th and 5th grade music, and very little financial benefit. Plumas Lake Elementary School District is currently funding less than one full time equivalent music position, and is getting two highly experienced veteran teachers with over thirty years of music teaching experience between them.**

Program/Position Descriptors

Program/Position Name: **Plumas Lake Charter School Teacher**

Descriptor Author(s): **Deanna Wiseman**

Please describe this program or position. This description should include the work done and the benefits connected to our organization and students.

Plumas Lake Charter School is an independent study school. I am a facilitator of units and tutor one on one based on student need. Many of our students come to us because they cannot succeed at a regular high school. Most of our population begin in a regular high school and then come to us as a last resort to get caught up. This year, 5 of our 7 students are in-district (came from Riverside or live in Plumas Lake). Last year, half of our students lived within our district. To me, that means, without the charter school, we would lose these students to Wheatland or they would drop-out.

Please describe in what ways a cut to this program or position could negatively affect the district from your perspective:

The independent study format allows at-risk students to graduate. This school allows us to keep students in our district and collect ADA from their attendance.

Cutting the charter school position would eliminate an essential money maker for the district. Last year the charter school ran in the black. If the district were to advertise, encourage at risk 8th grade students from Riverside to attend, etc. we could be potentially profitable instead of an expense. If the district would spend the man hours on concentrating on how to make the charter school more successful and desirable to students, instead of year after year writing petitions to the state, the charter could help the district pay off the nearly \$1,000,000 owed to the state.

Additionally, if the charter school is closed, it is my understanding that the debt to the state will be due and payable immediately. Postponing payment of an obligation that large is critical for the district, considering our current budget crises.

Please describe in what ways a cut to this program or position will positively affect the district from your perspective.

Cutting the charter school would be in the district's best interest because they would not have to pay me \$21,000. *BUT* the \$1,000,000 would have to be paid back. \$1,000,000 vs. \$21,000? vs. \$21,000?