



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Statewide IT Academy

1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of this funding is to provide a statewide information technology academy program that provides curriculum and certification opportunities to middle and high school students at no cost to participants. OSPI partners with Microsoft to offer the Imagine IT Academy software and curriculum program to middle schools and high schools across the state. Certiport and CCI Learning are Microsoft partners that provide certification resources and support directly to schools as a component of this program.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Funding is provided via contract that results in the following services provided to middle and high schools in the state.

Curriculum:

- Microsoft Official Academic Course (MOA) digital textbooks
- E-learning, Lesson Plans, Student Projects and Test Banks
- Curriculum Mapping to Washington CTE courses
- Digital Literacy

Professional Development:

- E-Reference Online Library
- Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT) Membership
- Microsoft Innovative Educator (MEI)
- Teaching with Technology E-Learning curriculum

Certification:

- Certification test center site license for each school including
- Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) exam vouchers for teachers and students
- Complimentary MOS, Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) and Microsoft Certified Educator (MCE) exam vouchers for faculty and staff professional development
- Discounted Microsoft Certified Professional Exams

Partnership Resources:

- ITA Membership Plaque
- Posters to help recruit students
- Use of Microsoft IT Academy logo
- Teacher Training on ITA Tools & Benefits
- How to Guides

3. Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:

All Washington state high schools, middle schools, State Tribal Education Compact Schools (STECs) and Educational Service Districts (ESDs) are eligible for site licenses to offer IT Academy software and certification opportunities.

Beneficiaries in 2021-22 School Year:

Number of School Districts: Microsoft Certifications 128, Coding in Minecraft: 59

Number of Schools: Microsoft Certifications 339, Coding in Minecraft 502

Number of Students: Microsoft Certifications 57,198

Number of Educators: Microsoft Certifications 556, Coding in Minecraft 204

Other: Credentials Microsoft Certifications 12,954, Coding in Minecraft 474

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY22 Funding:

State Appropriation:	\$3,000,000
Federal Appropriation:	\$0
Other Fund Sources:	\$0
TOTAL (FY22)	\$3,000,000

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2022	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
2021	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
2020	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
2019	\$3,000,000	\$2,997,284
2018	\$3,000,000	\$2,999,487

6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

Fiscal Year	Number of School Districts
FY22	128
FY21	83
FY20	129
FY19	137

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

When originally established, the statewide contract did not include middle school access to software or certificates. This access was added to the contract during the 2015-16 school year. As of August 1, 2022, Microsoft Imagine Academy now offers Coding in Minecraft by Prodigy Learning. Coding in Minecraft' by Prodigy Learning is a computer science credential program with supporting curriculum, delivered through Minecraft: Education Edition. The pathway includes four courses that immerse students in a Minecraft world to develop and prove their coding skills using MakeCode and JavaScript or Python. CCI Learning is partnered with Prodigy Learning to help with marketing based on its presence and relationship with WA teachers through Microsoft certification deployment. Adoption of this product includes 502 schools interested and 204 teachers trained, with 474 credentials earned the first year. This is a K-12 product that is deployed in all grade levels. Microsoft Technology Associate was retired and replaced by Microsoft Certified Fundamentals. These role-based certifications meet current and upcoming skill gaps in technology.

8. Evaluations of program/major findings:

The challenges faced during the pandemic of limited accessibility of testing for the students at home, the number of districts participating/using the software and/or providing testing are improving with nearly triple the number of students earning certifications from the previous year. Below is the completion number of certifications by type:

- MS Office Specialist: 14,445, previous year 5243
- MS Technology Associate: 568
- MS Fundamentals: 25

Washington State students place at the Certiport MOS U.S. National event.

- Auburn Mountainview HS – Alejandro Espino-Cebrero – Third Place for Microsoft PowerPoint 2019
- Cavelero Middle High School – Hailey Tsang – Second Place for Microsoft Excel 2016

- Cavelero Middle High School – Jack Snyder – Fifth Place for Microsoft PowerPoint 2016
- Kalles Junior High – David Kim – Fourth Place for Microsoft PowerPoint 2019

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

Allocated funding is entirely dedicated to the statewide contract, and does not include staff support at OSPI, or funding for communication and marketing tools to support increasing district understanding of opportunities for all students.

Additionally, many school districts are using one-to-one technology which may not support the structured IT Academy platform for certification access. Gaps in student technology and internet access impacted software and certification accessibility this school year. Additionally, OSPI has been tasked with finding similar public-private partnerships at no cost to the state. While many software based curriculum options are free, certifications do carry cost irrespective of vendor.

10. **Future opportunities:**

Increased funding for FTE at OSPI to supply direct support, program implementation, and expansion in school districts would be useful. Investments in student access to internet connectivity and technology devices will support expanded access and digital equity. Continued reporting and analysis will result in a greater understanding of access and completion rates among student groups in Washington.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 5693, Sec. 522(11)(b)(i) - \$3,000,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$3,000,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for a statewide information technology academy program. This public-private partnership will provide educational software, as well as information technology certification and software training opportunities for students and staff in public schools for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years only. The office must evaluate other options that may be available in the state for a future public-private partnership to deliver similar services to students and staff of public schools at no cost to the state. (ii) The office must require the recipient of these funds to report the impacts of the recipient's efforts in alignment with the measures of the Washington school improvement framework. The report must include the number of students served disaggregated by gender, race, ethnicity, and free-and-reduced lunch eligibility as well as the number of industry certificates attained by type of certificate.

12. **Other relevant information:**

The grantee provides a report to OSPI which includes students served through these services, in alignment with the measures of the Washington School Improvement

Framework. The full report from the recipient of these funds was not completed at the time of this report.

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

14. Program Contact Information:

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