



# Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

## **Civics Education**

### 1. **Purpose:**

The Civic Education Initiative provided direction and resources for OSPI, individually and in partnership with civic organizations, to address the requirements of SSHB 1896 (2018 Session) related to implementation of the new .5 credit civics requirement, early voter registration, civics education at the elementary level, creation of middle level civics resources and materials, the completion of civics standards revisions and beginning the revision of Civics OSPI Developed Assessments for elementary, middle, and high school as per RCW 28A.230.095.

### 2. **Description of services provided:**

1. Created a user-friendly, ADA-compatible layout for the Social Studies learning standards and transferred the final content into a new format for digital and print publication.
2. Contracted with five educators to create teacher guides and student materials for "The State We're In," a middle level, civics textbook created by the League of Women Voters. The materials will be available on the Washington OER Commons website.
3. Contracted with three educators to revise the Secretary of State's "Teaching Elections" curriculum surrounding elections to align to the current learning standards.
4. Collaborated with the Secretary of State's office to put together a Future Voter kit of election materials, including video, for teachers to use in their classrooms. RCW 28A.230.150 requires OSPI to provide resources for teachers on temperance and good citizenship day, when districts are expected to coordinate voter registration events for seniors. OSPI collected data on the number of students who registered under the Future Voter act, teaming with the Secretary of State's office to curate materials for teachers, and provide a digital and paper registration form with a QR code that automatically counts #FutureVoter registrations.
5. Facilitated state presentations at the fall 2019 and winter 2020 Washington State Council for the Social Studies conferences, providing resources, materials, and guidance on civics education K-12.
6. Funded a competitive grant for ESDs to provide high quality, high impact professional development opportunities to K-12 teachers to improve their ability to provide students with effective civics education. One ESD received the grant.

7. Provided \$150,000 of the Civics Proviso funds to the Washington History Day program. This funding covered the salary and benefits for one FTE Program Coordinator, one 0.4 FTE Administrative Assistant, and a portion of the program's operating costs (the remaining costs being covered by private donations). OSPI's program staff and contracted partners supported eight regional contests, virtual state and national contests, educator outreach and training, and support for student researchers.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

All services and materials provided to support civics professional learning were accessible to all teachers in the state. The ESD Civics Training grants stipulated that participating teachers do one or more of the following: Access and/or building C3 IDM lessons for civics instruction, provide technical assistance in understanding the revised learning standards, access research and demonstrate ways to incorporate literacy skills, access resources for building and implementing a high school civics course, and access OSPI's OER Commons and League of Women Voters' "The State We're In: Washington" text and OSPI materials.

**Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:**

<b>Number of School Districts:</b>	295
<b>Number of Schools:</b>	Indeterminate
<b>Number of Students:</b>	Indeterminate
<b>Number of Educators:</b>	Indeterminate
<b>Other:</b> <i>Name other...</i>	0

<b>Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):</b>	1.4 FTE
<b>Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:</b>	12 Contracts

<b>FY20 Funding: State Appropriation:</b>	\$374,000
<b>Federal Appropriation:</b>	\$0
<b>Other fund sources:</b>	\$0
<b>TOTAL (FY20)</b>	\$374,000

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

No

Yes, please explain.

*If state funds are not available, the state will not be eligible...*

5. **State funding history:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount Funded</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
FY20	\$374,000	\$241,124
FY19	\$230,000	\$171,762

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

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of School Districts</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Number of Educators</b>
FY20	295	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
FY19	295	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

Focus shifted from the cataloguing of resources and materials, and revised civics standards, to a greater focus on supporting implementation of civics K–12 with emphasis on supporting high schools as they transition to stand-alone course offerings.

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

ESD 112 Civics Education Training Grant: The shift to virtual trainings had unexpected benefits by increasing accessibility and opportunities for collaboration. The original ESD 112 project proposal adjusted to allow numerous opportunities for collaboration. For example, instead of one face-to-face meeting, ESD 112 was able to host a cohort style series where elementary, middle, and high school staff were able to learn with and from each other in a 'whole group setting' (via Zoom), then break out into smaller groups to learn across the region. The virtual environment also enabled teachers from more districts to participate. Social Studies cadre members (educators that serve as an advisory group to the state) developed tools used with this cohort that could easily be updated and shared with others. As part of the project all participants created (or began) their own Civics Inquiry Task. These have already been shared across the cohorts. We expect the highest quality inquiries to be shared statewide.

The Washington History Day program facilitated deep development and application of social studies skills – most specifically historical research and critical thinking – in approximately 2,500 students statewide. Washington State students represented themselves and the state well in the 2020 National History Day competition; the delegation of 65 students earned eight finalist entries, three silver medals, and four “special honors”.

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

The planned ESD 112 trainings for social studies teachers and district administrators, as well as in-person conferences to unpack civics education, could not be implemented due to COVID-19. The standalone civics implementation has become more difficult as districts and educators navigate the implementation of courses in a remote learning environment. We have provided many support materials on the Washington OER Commons to help districts and educators access materials as easily as possible. The pandemic also challenged the Washington History Day (WHD) program in completing the three levels of History Day competitions. Four of Washington State's eight regional-level contests had to make last-minute transitions to virtual events and the state- and national-level contest became virtual as well. Washington History Day's private fundraisers had difficulty soliciting donations to support the program's operations during the pandemic, but the reduced cost of virtual events successfully mitigated the shortfall in private donations. Support for the regional level of the WHD program remains a concern, as Regional Coordinators statewide are all volunteers and must self-fund their local programs, in addition to donating their time while teaching virtually.

10. **Future opportunities:**

Expand the ESD Civics Education Training Grant program and build stronger regional foundations for Washington History Day.

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

ESSB 6168, Sec. 520 (3)(b) - \$384,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$373,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for 2021 are provided solely for implementation of Second Substitute House Bill No. 1896 (civics education). Of the amounts provided in this subsection (3) (b), \$10,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$10,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for grant programs to school districts to help cover travel costs associated with civics education competitions.

12. **Other relevant information:**

The number of beneficiaries is indeterminable due to the scale of the civics education and Washington History Day programs in reaching all districts through:

- 1) In-person and online professional development and conferences;
- 2) Regional and state competitions;
- 3) Open Educational Resources platform;
- 4) Secretary of State's Future Voter program; and

5) Adoption of the Social Studies Learning Standards into schools.

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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