

Civics Education Initiative

1. **Purpose:**

The Civic Education Initiative provided direction and resources for OSPI, individually and in partnership with civic organizations, to complete numerous projects related to implementation of the new .5 civics requirement, early voter registration, civic education at the elementary level, creation of middle level civic resources and materials, and the completion of civics standards and inquiries K-12.

2. **Description of services provided:**

- OSPI, in collaboration with many educator and community partners, made available high quality open source resources and materials for civics education that will assist districts to meet the requirements of [2SHB 1896](#). A link to these resources is provided here: [Resources for .5 Civics Requirement](#).
- OSPI funded two demonstration districts, Franklin Pierce and Sunnyside, to promote youth civic engagement through voter registration.
- OSPI provided four workshops to elementary educators in three regions of the state. Workshop attendees were required to attend in school or district teams and to bring an administrator with them. Nearly 200 educators and district leaders received strategies and materials to integrate civics across content areas, as well as time to develop their own lessons and materials. Attendees were also given training on the new social studies standards, the Six Proven Practices in Civic Education, and the C3 Inquiry model.
- OSPI contracted with three 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. Materials created are being made available on the Washington OER Commons website and can be accessed here: [LWV The State We're In Civics Materials](#).
- OSPI presented at all three Washington State Council for the Social Studies conferences, providing resources, materials, and guidance on civics education K-12.

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

A \$50,000 grant was awarded to Franklin Pierce School District based on its readiness to serve as a demonstration district for the Civics Education Initiative. Franklin Pierce elected to allocate \$25,000 of its grant to Sunnyside School District to serve as a second demonstration district. All workshops and trainings were advertised to educator's state wide and opportunities made available through OSPI and the Washington State Council for the Social Studies.

Beneficiaries in 2018-19 School Year:

of School Districts: All districts have access to materials created for civic education. 15 school districts participated in elementary civics integration workshops in Vancouver, Renton, and Spokane.

of Schools: All schools have access to materials created for civic education. 39 schools participated in elementary civics integration workshops in Vancouver, Renton, and Spokane.

of Students: Based on the number of teachers attending workshops as well as student enrollment in the two demonstration districts, approximately 10,000 students were directly impacted this year.

Other: 00

of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 00

of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 05

FY19 Funding:	State Appropriation:	\$230,000
	Federal Appropriation:	\$0
	Other fund sources:	\$0
	TOTAL (FY19)	\$230,000

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding? If yes, explain. No.
5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY19	\$230,000	\$171,762

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

Fiscal Year	Districts
FY19	295

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any): 2018-19 was the first year of this initiative.
8. Evaluations of program/major findings:

- Elementary teachers are in dire need of resources and training; continued development of resources and collaboration with the Secretary of State and other interested parties is important to the continued success of civics education.
- Feedback from teachers attending civics workshops was uniformly outstanding.
- At least two districts recalibrated their elementary schedule to include increased time and materials for teaching civics and other social studies during the school day.
- Districts are eager for guidance and materials to assist them in transitioning to a stand-alone Civics class at the high school level. OSPI will continue to develop resources and trainings that districts can access to help them do this successfully.
- High school civics is of high interest state-wide and districts welcome support for designing and implementing stand-alone civics courses and materials.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

- Our demonstration districts did not have capacity to manage their grant money in the ways we hoped. Franklin Pierce requested we not include them in our 2019-20 work to do early voter outreach, and we are working with the Secretary of State's office to create and maintain a more successful model for district participation state-wide.
- Elementary teachers had few resources and need more time to develop and implement civics K-5. Additional time to plan for implementation and to adopt and create resources is needed.

10. **Future opportunities:**

- Civics workshops will be offered at all 2019-20 Washington State Council for the Social Studies (WSCSS) conferences.
- OSPI is continuing to develop a youth voter toolkit for Temperance and Good Citizenship Day in partnership with the Secretary of State's Office.
- Cadre members (social studies educators) are assisting in the creation of civics materials and alignment of OSPI-developed assessments for civics.
- Social Studies educators are creating additional teacher guides and materials for the remaining chapters of The State We're In, the League of Women Voters' middle level, civics textbook.
- The League of Women Voters has secured funding to create a companion elementary text to The State We're In. Once completed, OSPI will contract with social studies educators to create additional teacher guides and student resources.
- OSPI is contracting with social studies educators to rewrite the Secretary of State's voting lessons to make them standards-aligned and inquiry-based.
- OSPI is establishing partnerships with several districts across the state to gather data on whether providing voter registration materials and resources directly to schools has a measureable impact on voter turnout in high school and for recent graduates.

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

Budget Proviso: ESSB 6032, Sec. 501 (52) - \$230,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 is provided solely for implementation of Second Substitute House Bill No. 1896 (civics education). If the bill is not enacted by June 30, 2018, the amount provided in this subsection shall lapse.

12. **Other relevant information:** None.

13. **List of schools/districts receiving assistance:** See OSPI [website](#).

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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