



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

K-12 Open Education Resources

1. **Purpose:**

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching and learning materials that are free to use, adapt, and share. OER:

- Give districts flexibility to shift funds from content acquisition to other critical areas that support teaching and learning;
- Empower districts to make adaptations to support their students; and
- Promote equitable access to strong materials for all students.

The OSPI K-12 OER Project is focused on:

- **OER Review and Development:** working with districts to develop full-course or unit level OER aligned to learning standards.
- **OER Library Curation:** maintaining a library of resources that have been developed by OSPI grantees or collaborators and aligned to Washington K-12 Learning Standards.
- **OER Awareness and Advocacy:** increasing district awareness of OER and providing resources to locate, evaluate, adopt, and implement OER.

2. **Description of services provided:**

- [Washington OER Hub](#) – The Washington OER Hub is an online platform for freely sharing K-12 open educational resources. Curated and created for and by Washington educators, the site promotes equitable access to standards-aligned, quality instructional materials.
- [OER Grants](#) – competitive grant program that assists with district development or adaptation of OER core instructional materials aligned to state learning standards in a specific content area.
- **OER Summits and Professional Learning Events** – webinars, workshops, and conference presentations raise awareness and build district capacity to implement OER.
- **Technical assistance and content-specific work sessions** – support to school districts and Educational Service Districts exploring, implementing, or adapting OER and assistance to additional OSPI grantees and contractors producing resources that adhere to [OSPI Open Policy](#).

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

- Any educator can access, download, and adapt instructional materials on the Washington OER Hub or attend OER professional learning events.
- To receive OER grant funding, grantees must:
 - develop/adapt core or unit-level OER aligned to state learning standards.
 - demonstrate impact beyond a single class (e.g. collaboration between multiple districts, Educational Service Districts, local Tribes, or community-based organizations).
 - submit developed content to the Washington OER Hub, so that material can be accessed and used by educators and districts across the state.

Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts: 118 (professional learning events—only tracked districts in events with required registration)
6 (grants - includes one ESD serving 30 additional districts, one state school, and one Washington non-profit organization)

Number of Students: 7,745 (grants)

Number of Educators: 2,218 (professional learning) 1523 (grants)

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 1.1 FTE

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 8 Contracts

FY21 Funding: State Appropriation: \$250,000

Federal Appropriation: \$0

Other fund sources: \$0

TOTAL (FY21) \$250,000

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:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	\$250,000	\$230,065
FY20	\$250,000	\$239,500
FY19	\$250,000	\$232,090
FY18	\$250,000	\$246,362
FY17	\$250,000	\$218,088
FY16	\$250,000	\$215,882
FY15	\$250,000	\$190,965
FY14	\$250,000	\$186,686

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Students	Number of Educators
FY21	7,745	3,741
FY20*	21,147	2,289
FY19*	6,450	1,628
FY18*	6,172	1,694
FY17*	7,935	2,131
FY16*	17,581	2,554
FY15*	22,504	2,225
FY14*	23,017	1,902

** These numbers include totals from grants, workshops, meetings, and presentations*

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

Addition of a competitive grant program in FY14

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

OER Review and Development

- Continued a competitive OER grant program to support districts as they adapt, develop, or implement OER.
 - Over 1,500 teachers and 7,700 students directly benefited, with many more sharing the benefits of the openly accessible work.
 - This year, 20 new lessons/units were created in the following areas:
 - Physical Education
 - World Languages
 - STEM
 - Washington State History
 - Social Studies for Dual Language students
 - Financial Literacy for deaf and hard of hearing students
 - [Final OER Grantee Report 2020-2021](#)
 - [2020-21 OER Grantee Resource Showcase \(video\)](#)
 - [Washington OER Grantee](#) group on the [Washington OER Hub](#)
- Provided technical assistance and OER development training to additional OSPI grantees in the following programs:
 - [ClimeTime](#): science teacher training around Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and climate science - [SB 5092, Section 522 \(4\)\(c\)](#)
 - [Digital Citizenship/Media Literacy](#): Open Educational Resources to support digital citizenship, media literacy and Internet safety in schools - [SB5242](#)
 - [Kip Tokuda Memorial Civil Liberties Public Education](#): [RCW 28A.300.410](#)
- With an internal OSPI workgroup and external collaborators, developed an openly licensed screening tool to help school districts adopt equitable and culturally responsive classroom materials that comply with Washington nondiscrimination law.
 - [Washington Screening for Biased Content in Instructional Materials](#)
 - [Screening for Biased Content Tool Webinar](#) (video)

OER Library Curation – Washington OER Hub

- Expanded the Washington OER Hub, increasing pool of both OSPI curated collections of resources and materials created by OSPI grantees, collaborating organizations, and contractors. During FY21, 122 robust lessons and units aligned with Washington learning standards were added to the platform. Below are few of the most frequently viewed resources based on the hub data analytics:
 - OSPI Continuous Learning Resource Suggestions
 - Digital Survival Skills
 - K-5 Science: New and Improved Essential Question Units and Resources
 - Washington Quality Review Rubric for Social Studies
 - The State We're In: Washington (Grades 3-5 Edition)
 - Cultivating Washington: The History of Our State's Food, Land, and People
- Contracted with expert educators to curate additional resources for learning collections, reviewing materials for alignment to learning standards and other indicators of quality.
 - [Washington OER Hub – Resource Submission Criteria](#)

OER Awareness and Advocacy

- Continued recording 15-minute YouTube sessions focusing on exemplar district developed resources.
 - [Washington OER Hub Highlights \(video playlist\)](#)
 - Over 3.3K views of video segments in FY21
- OER presentations, webinars, and trainings reached over 2,200 educators
- Washington continues to play a leadership role in a cohort of other states recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for their commitment to support school districts and educators transitioning to the use of quality, openly licensed educational resources in their schools.

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

Limited staff (1) make serving greater numbers of districts, educators, and internal OSPI teams difficult. This has become especially noticeable during this period of increased demand for remote learning and freely accessible quality digital resources.

With the move to online professional learning opportunities provided by the OER Project, accurate numbers for educator and district attendance are difficult to provide as registration was not required for some events. Moving forward, we will require registration for all online events to ensure better tracking of this information.

10. **Future opportunities:**

With the COVID-19 crisis requiring districts to implement blended or remote learning strategies, the Washington OER Hub is poised to provide many needed resource options and support to help schools, students, families, and communities.

Free access to quality learning materials that can be quickly (and legally) adapted for changing circumstances and student needs is a critical component of the equity-based system school districts work towards. A [UNESCO Call for Joint Action](#) detailed the importance of OER in sharing knowledge for the post-COVID-19 future of learning. With a one-time infusion of ESSER funds, OSPI will leverage the existing K-12 OER Project to:

- a) increase the pipeline of OER creation/adaptation in content areas currently lacking resources and in areas targeted by OSPI strategic goals.
- b) expand professional learning focused on the discovery, adaptation, and implementation of existing standards aligned OER developed by Washington districts and available on the Washington OER Hub.

The effort would translate into an infusion of materials addressing identified needs and increasing OER development/usage capacity among OSPI staff, educators, and school leaders.

Statutory and/or budget language:

ESSB 5092, Sec. 1501 (1)(j) \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for implementation of chapter 178, Laws of 2012 (open K-12 education resources).

11. **Other relevant information:**

By continuing to expand the library of high quality openly licensed courseware and aid districts in the development and adaptation of open materials, the OER Project plays a huge role in providing equitable access to core instructional materials.

- Provides a platform for sharing work beyond district LMS
- Allows for adaptation of materials to update, differentiate, and iterate
- Legal sharing of content with an open license
- Facilitates collaborative development of resources with OSPI, educators, ESDs, and other partners
- Reduces duplication of efforts and promote professional learning
- Increases “discoverability” of high-quality instructional materials

Since legislation passed in 2012 ([RCW 28A.300.803](#)), the K–12 OER Project has advocated for OER as an important part of the instructional materials ecosystem. Washington is receiving considerable recognition nationally for this leadership -- from the Council of Chief State School Officers, the State Educational Technology Directors' Association, and the U.S. Department of Education.

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

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

13. **Program Contact Information:**

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