



E2SHB 1365 Media Literacy/Digital Citizenship

1. **Purpose:**

Grant funding was provided to support the development and sharing of resources, instructional strategies, and best practices for integrating Media Literacy and/or Digital Citizenship into Social Studies, English Language Arts, or Health classes. The main goal this year was to provide planning time for district teams that wanted to apply for a project grant that could be implemented the following year.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Grant funds were used for school district expenses associated with planning meetings, assessing needs, reviewing instructional resource and curriculum options, and designing professional development. Grant funds were also used for the salary, benefits, and other employee expenses associated with the OSPI Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship Program Supervisor position.

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

Grantees were selected based upon their need for increased integration of Media Literacy and/or Digital Citizenship into their curricula, their readiness to begin planning to apply for the project grant, and their inclusion of teacher-librarians in their planning process. Ten teams were awarded grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$11,000, depending on the sizes of the districts represented by the teams.

Beneficiaries in 2021-22 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	13
Number of Schools:	130
Number of Students:	68,850
Number of Educators:	3,269
Other:	2,500 - Families

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

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

FY22 Funding:	State Appropriation:	\$199,000
	Federal Appropriation:	\$0
	Other Fund Sources:	\$0
	TOTAL (FY22)	\$199,000

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

No

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2022	\$199,000	\$150,736
2021	\$150,000	\$141,835
2020	\$150,000	\$135,466

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
FY 22	130
FY 21	69
FY 20	25

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

During the previous Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship grant cycle, the focus was on creating new instructional resources. This time, the focus was on providing time for district teams to explore options for integrating existing instructional resources into their schools' curricula. Time is needed to review options, determine best practices, and design supports for staff who will be delivering instruction to students. In addition, because this grant was associated with two other initiatives (hosting conference sessions and creating a professional development pilot program), the Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship Program needed a FTE to take care of implementation.

8. Evaluations of program/major findings:

In the end, only five of the ten teams are continuing the work they began during the planning phase into a full-year project. A sixth team is continuing the work they initiated (a virtual PD opportunity that can be offered to educators from all over the state), without grant funds. The four teams that did not pursue a project grant

reported that it was still beneficial to have the time to assess their needs and available resources, so they made good use of the grant funds. Teams were able to accomplish the following:

- Obtain buy-in from colleagues for integrating Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship into curriculum
- Attend conferences and purchasing books to build educators' skills
- Review instructional resources and creating curated collections
- Align lessons with content area standards
- Design professional development to be delivered by "train the trainers"

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

One of the major challenges of the program was the short time frame in which district teams had for the work. The delay in getting the grants out to teams was caused by a combination of lack of staff at OSPI and the very slow iGrants process. On top of this, districts are still dealing with Covid-related teacher absences and substitute shortages. It was difficult for most teams to find time to work together, partly due to different schedules, partly due to extra demands on teacher-librarians and administrators who usually have more available time, partly due to the lack of capacity to take on an extra project. Some teams described the HB-1365-decreed limitation that the Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship lessons only be integrated into ELA, Health, or Social Studies as an obstacle. There are other content areas that would also be good candidates for integration. Other teams wanted to know for sure that they would receive a project grant the following year before completely diving into the planning work.

10. Future opportunities:

In the future, the grant could be designed to better integrate its work with other Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship Program initiatives. One of these is a curated list of instructional resources that could save district teams some time and effort. Instead of splitting into a planning grant and a project grant, it could be a two-year grant, allowing teams to plan for a project they would know they could implement the following year. This would also allow for work during the summer when educators have more time and flexibility. The grant could be freed from the limitation to ELA, Health, or Social Studies classes. Although Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship instruction works best when it's woven into what's going on in classrooms, there's no reason to limit it to those three. Challenges to continue to address include: how overwhelmed educators are and how they need additional humans, not just additional time for the humans they already have; the dwindling availability of teacher-librarians, who are the driving force behind so much of this work, in so many of our districts; and the fact that a one-size-fits-all approach (as in, "here, teach these lessons") does not work as well as an approach that helps teachers understand the

concepts of Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship so it can show up in everything they do with their students.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

ESSB 5693, Sec. 522(25) - \$199,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$247,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for the media literacy and digital citizenship grant program created in Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1365 (schools/computers & devices). Total grant awards may not exceed \$150,000. Of the amounts provided in this subsection, \$50,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 is provided solely for two regional conferences.

12. Other relevant information:

N/A

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

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

14. Program Contact Information:

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