Washington K-12 Open Educational Resources Project
Benefits of OER

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Open Educational Resources (OER) are freely available teaching and learning materials that can be downloaded, edited, and shared to better serve all students. OER include content such as textbooks, lesson plans, assignments, games, and other educational materials. They can be produced in any medium: paper-based text, video, audio, or computer-based multimedia.

Appeal of OER

COST SHIFTING
By sharing and adapting educational materials, content acquisition costs can be cut dramatically, providing schools with flexibility to shift funds to other critical areas that support learning and teaching.

FREEDOM TO UPDATE CONTENT
OER empower districts to make adaptations to support their students – localizing content or differentiating material to meet varied student needs. Adapted resources can be freely distributed without concern about copyright violations - promoting good digital citizenship

EQUITY OF ACCESS
Most importantly, OER have the capacity to provide equitable opportunities to access strong content materials for ALL students

> *OER can help school districts in their efforts to close elusive achievement gaps by providing resources that many educational institutions could not otherwise economically afford.*
>
> *NAACP Endorsement of OER*

Considerations About OER

QUALITY
The criteria used to judge quality and educational standards alignment needs to be the same regardless of whether the materials are print or digital, open, or all rights reserved copyright.

ACCESS
Though print options are available for many OER, in order to take full advantage of digital open resources, a network and internet infrastructure is critical. As districts look to shift to a one-to-one computing environment, where every student has a tablet, laptop, or other device, OER is a cost-effective way to provide digital content.

Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

STAFF CAPACITY

Teachers need opportunities for sustained professional learning in using digital tools, locating OER, evaluating quality, understanding licensing, and adapting resources. Many online professional learning communities focused on OER are evolving to help meet this need.

POLICIES

Local districts and school boards often have existing policies and practices related to instructional materials adoption that need to be revised in order to encourage the use, adaptation, and development of open resources.

What is the K-12 OER Project?

The [Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) (OSPI) OER Project raises OER awareness and provides support for school districts adapting, developing, and implementing openly-licensed instructional materials. Our goals include:

- Ongoing OER awareness and capacity building.
- Development support and review of district adapted and created OER.
- Creation and maintenance of an OER Library

For More Information

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