

# Open Educational Resources and ESSA

## Title IV Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment

### Open Educational Resources

Open Educational Resources (OER) are freely available teaching and learning materials that can be downloaded, adapted, 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.

### Why OER

- Provide equity of access to strong content material
- Empower teachers to update content and personalize learning
- Promote professional learning through collaborative materials adaptation and development
- Shift costs from content to other areas to support learning and teaching
- Leverage technology

### Title IV, Part A and OER

[The Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (ESSA) contains specific language that allows school districts to channel funds from Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Title IV, Part A) toward the use and development of OER. Specifically, Title IV, Part A permits grantees to use program funds for “**discovering, adapting, and sharing openly licensed high-quality resources.**” This option is embedded within the Effective Use of Technology section.

### Examples of Potential Activities

- Provide educators and district administrators with professional learning to understand how to use, locate, and review open educational resources.
- Offer educators in rural, remote, and underserved areas protocols and support for virtual Professional Learning Communities that take advantage of high quality OER.
- Convene educators to collaboratively curate and adapt OER in areas such as arts, foreign language, STEM, civics, physical education, health, and social emotional learning.
- Gather educators with developed units or lessons to review, adapt, replace any “all rights reserved” elements, and openly license materials for wide scale sharing.



## First Steps

To help with comprehensive planning and stakeholder buy in, initiate discussions between varied school district staff and allied groups to assess district benefits and challenges with OER.

[OER Considerations for School Districts](#)

[Benefits of OER](#)

Make OER a consideration in any district needs assessment. Include an examination of available OER in the content area(s) your district is targeting. This will help develop a clear understanding of the educational resource and associated professional learning needs of the district.

[Suggested OER Sites](#)

[OER Commons Washington Hub](#)

Connect with OSPI's K-12 OER Project to find resources and guidance to help effectively locate, review, and implement OER as well as understand permitted use and attribution requirements.

[OSPI K-12 OER Project Website](#)

## Links to Additional OER Resource and Policy Materials

[OER Frequently Asked Questions](#) | OSPI K-12 OER Project

[Introduction to Open Educational Resources](#) | Aligned—Student Achievement Partners

[Making Connections: PreK–12 OER in Practice](#) | New America

[Open Education](#) | Department of Education, Office of Educational Technology

[OER YouTube Playlist](#)

## Contact

*For more information on OER:*

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[Open Educational Resources](#)

*For general questions about Title IV, Part A:*

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