What is the Resource Clearinghouse?

The OSPI Resource Clearinghouse is an electronic repository of educational research, tools, and policy documents. It is overseen by The Center for the Improvement of Student Learning (CISL)—a division within the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). This page overviews the Clearinghouse's origins, its goals, and the content that it houses.

ORIGINS OF THE CLEARINGHOUSE

The Clearinghouse's origins are nested and interrelated. Because it is overseen by a division within a state education agency, the Clearinghouse can be traced back to state legislation, agency investment, and divisional priorities.

In 1986, the legislature tasked OSPI with "act[ing] as the state clearinghouse for educational information" (RCW 28A.03.510). Soon after, in 1993, CISL was formalized. One of its original charges was to maintain such a clearinghouse. (RCW 28A.300.130).

In 2021, OSPI allocated funds from the American Rescue Plan Emergency and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to CISL for clearinghouse improvement and expansion.

The Resource Clearinghouse also is a manifestation of CISL's mission, which is to mobilize knowledge in ways that support education policymaking and practice.

GOALS OF THE CLEARINGHOUSE

The Clearinghouse pursues two primary goals. Both goals are rationalized given current barriers to accessing, using, and sharing the content it houses.

The Clearinghouse aims to grow the impact of OSPI-affiliated research and development. This goal is rationalized given the inconsistent dissemination of outputs from OSPI's internal work as well as from work conducted by external contractors.

It also seeks to support evidence-based policymaking and practice within education. This goal is rationalized given the paywalls, time constraints, and siloed reporting structures that keeps OSPI staff and practitioners from fully engaging with educational research and resources.

CONTENT IN THE CLEARINGHOUSE

To realize these goals, the Clearinghouse collects, curates, and distributes content from a wide range of topic areas. Its entries also differ based on their source, format, and purpose.

The Clearinghouse houses **research**, which is defined as content that documents the creation of knowledge through a process of systematic inquiry. Often this involves pursuing an answer to a question of interest by collecting and analyzing evidence.

The Clearinghouse also houses **tools,** which are defined as pieces of content that facilitate the implementation of knowledge by including one or more interactive features, such as rubrics or best practice guides.

Finally, the Clearinghouse houses some **policy documents.** This type of content organizes and/or simplifies information about policies, programs, statutes, rules, or education-related issues in ways that aid comprehension.

How does it work?

The Resource Clearinghouse seeks to (1) grow the impact of OSPI-affiliated research and development, and (2) support evidence-based policymaking and practice in education. To realize its goals, the Clearinghouse collects, curates, and distributes educational resources. Each of these activities is illustrated in greater detail below.

GOAL 1: Grow the impact of OSPI-affiliated research and development.

GOAL 2: Support evidence-based policymaking and practice in education.
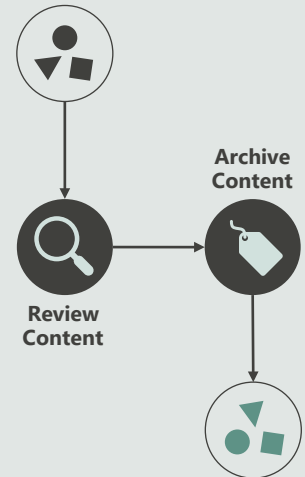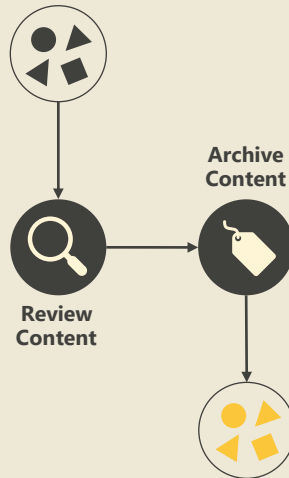
1) COLLECTION OF CONTENT

The Clearinghouse **collects** content from various sources. To support Goal 1, content is collected from internal projects and contracts with external partners. For Goal 2, content is collected from research databases, external organizations, and other governmental agencies. The Clearinghouse also accepts content submissions.

Internal Projects

Contracts

Research Literature

External Organizations

Other Agencies
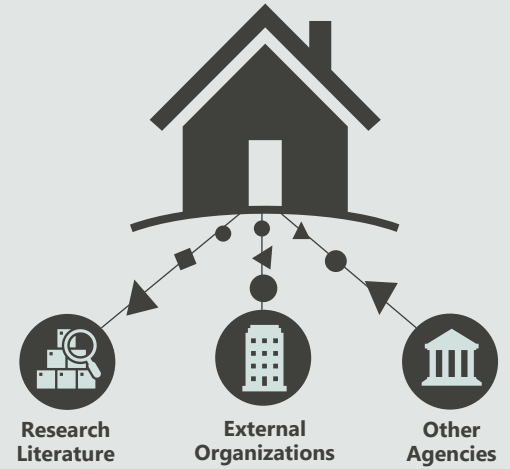
2) CURATION OF CONTENT

After resources have been collected, they are **curated** by staff. The curation process involves two steps. First, the content's fit, quality, and attention to equity is reviewed by staff using a standardized Content Review Protocol. Approved content is then assigned metadata (e.g., tags) before being published on the Clearinghouse's website.
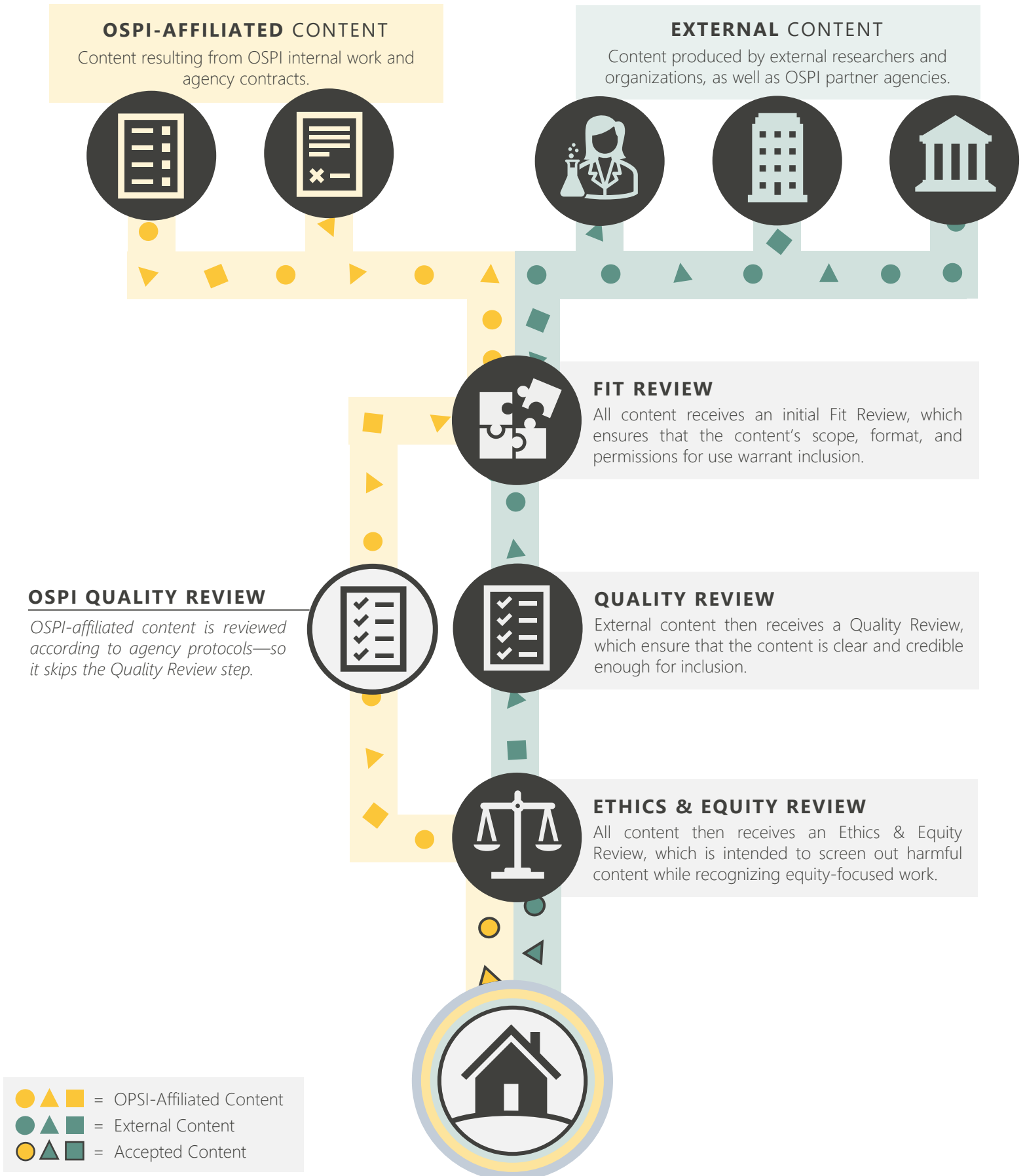
Archive Content

Review Content

3) DISTRIBUTION OF CONTENT

Content is then **distributed** to intended users—which include OSPI staff, practitioners, and researchers. The primary mode of distribution is a free, searchable electronic database. In addition, staff highlight content in quarterly newsletters and during agency meetings.

Researchers

Practitioners

OSPI Staff
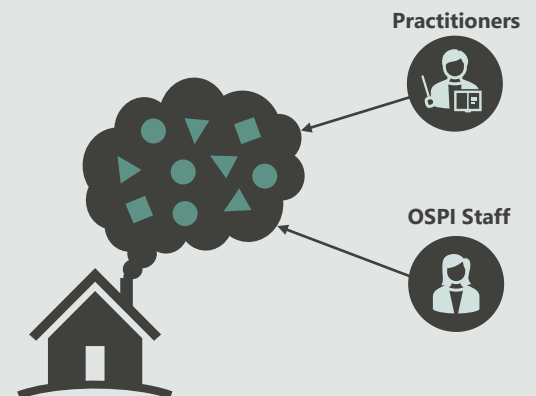
How is content reviewed?

Each piece of content is reviewed before inclusion in the Clearinghouse. The review process differs, however, depending on the source of the content. Because OSPI-affiliated content is already vetted through agency protocols, it is not subjected to the Quality Review step. Additional details about the review process and standards can be found in *A Guide to the Resource Clearinghouse's Content Review Protocol*.

OSPI-AFFILIATED CONTENT
Content resulting from OSPI internal work and agency contracts.

EXTERNAL CONTENT
Content produced by external researchers and organizations, as well as OSPI partner agencies.

FIT REVIEW
All content receives an initial Fit Review, which ensures that the content's scope, format, and permissions for use warrant inclusion.

OSPI QUALITY REVIEW
OSPI-affiliated content is reviewed according to agency protocols—so it skips the Quality Review step.

QUALITY REVIEW
External content then receives a Quality Review, which ensure that the content is clear and credible enough for inclusion.

ETHICS & EQUITY REVIEW
All content then receives an Ethics & Equity Review, which is intended to screen out harmful content while recognizing equity-focused work.

●▲■ = OPSI-Affiliated Content
●▲■ = External Content
○▲■ = Accepted Content

Who is it for?

There are no subscriptions or credentials required to access the Clearinghouse; anyone who wants to use it can! Nevertheless, the Clearinghouse does have a target audience—namely, those who participate in educational policymaking, research, and practice. This page provides examples of those users and their possible use cases.

	USER EXAMPLE	**USE** CASE
OSPI STAFF The Clearinghouse is intended to be an internal resource for employees serving at all levels of OSPI.	**OSPI Content Experts** *(e.g., Student Discipline Consultant)* **OSPI Program Managers** *(e.g., Alternative Learning Experiences [ALE] Program Manager)* **OSPI Leadership Team** *(e.g., Chief of Staff)*	An OSPI discipline expert wants to access the latest research on restorative justice. They find a pre-published manuscript submitted to the Clearinghouse by a team of scholars at the University of Washington. An ALE Program Manager is working with an outdoor education program to improve their continuous improvement strategy. After a quick search of the Clearinghouse, they find a free, practitioner-friendly guide to share with the program. A new Chief of Staff wonders if OSPI has previously commissioned any evaluations of the state's emergency waiver protocol for graduation requirements. They find a series of evaluations conducted by an OSPI contractor in the Clearinghouse.
RESEARCHERS The Clearinghouse also supports researchers specializing in education policy issues.	**External Researchers** *(e.g., Professor of Education Policy)* **Potential Contractors** *(e.g., Staff at an Education Think Tank)*	A professor from Washington State University's College of Education would like to make their latest study of teacher retention patterns available to a wider audience. They submit the study for inclusion in the Clearinghouse, and after review by staff, it is accepted and included. A team of associates from a Spokane education policy think tank is preparing their application for an OSPI evaluation contract. To strengthen the competitiveness of their application, they review spotlighted research in the Clearinghouse to ensure their proposal is aligned with OSPI's research priorities and builds from previous agency efforts.
PRACTITIONERS Finally, the Clearinghouse is designed to meet the information needs of educators across the state.	**Instructors** *(e.g., Classroom Teachers, Paraeducators)* **Administrators** *(e.g., School Principals, District Superintendents)* **Support Staff** *(e.g., Social Workers, School Counselors)*	A Yakima classroom teacher needs help developing a student feedback survey. They consult the Clearinghouse and find a resource about the creation of student course evaluations. Within the tool, they encounter a bank of sample survey items—many of which they integrate into their own survey. The Director of Education for Lummi Nation Schools seeks research on culturally-responsive computer science instruction. They become aware of a pertinent journal article, but they do not have a journal subscription to access it. In turn, they search the Clearinghouse and find the same article available for free. A team of counselors from the Tukwila school district participated in a statewide survey of school counselors. To learn about the results of the project, they review the Clearinghouse and find a report summarizing preliminary findings.

What distinguishes the Clearinghouse from other OSPI information repositories?

The Resource Clearinghouse is one of several public-facing information repositories managed by OSPI. Two notable examples are the Washington OER Hub and the OSPI Data Portal. Along with the Resource Clearinghouse, these repositories function as centralized access points to freely-available information. Despite similarities in function, each repository serves unique user groups, hosts unique types of content, and sources content from unique places.

RESOURCE CLEARINGHOUSE

Primary user group. The Clearinghouse primarily intends to support OSPI staff, though researchers and practitioners are also served.

Content type. The Clearinghouse hosts educational research, tools, and policy documents.

Sources of content. This content is sourced from internal work, internal-external partnerships, and other sources outside of OSPI.

OSPI Staff

Research & Resources

External Organizations

Other Agencies

Internal Projects

Contracts

Research Databases

WASHINGTON OER HUB

Primary user group. The OER Hub helps connect educators to relevant, high-quality teaching resources.

Content type. The OER Hub hosts open educational resources (OER), which are materials pertaining to instructional practices and curriculum design.

Sources of content. This content is produced by external contributors as well as through partnerships between OSPI staff and educators, schools, districts, and/or grantees.

Educators

Instructional Materials

Internal Projects

Contracts

Educators
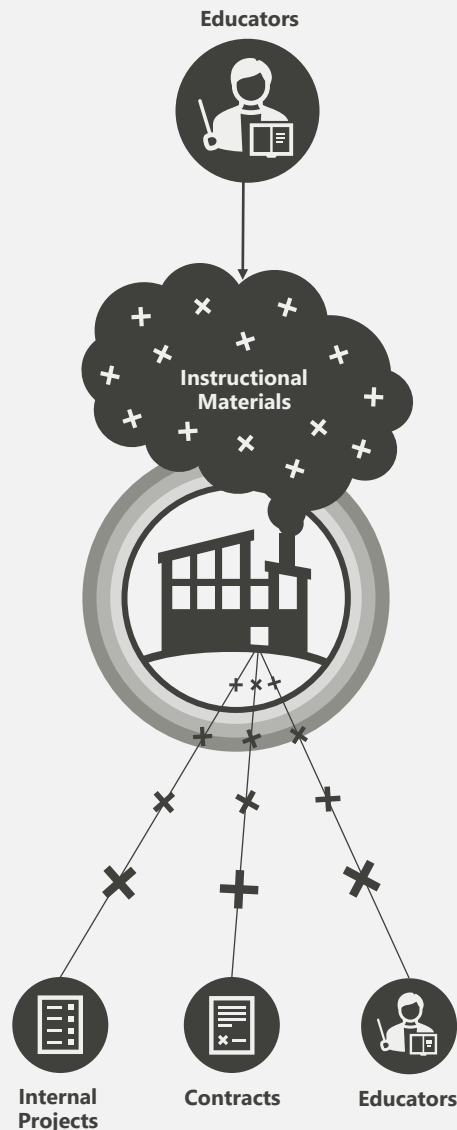
OSPI DATA PORTAL

Primary user group. The OSPI Data Portal's intended audience is unspecified; it seeks to make data available for "public use".

Content type. The Data Portal hosts downloadable datasets featuring student/education information, district finances, and other accountability indicators.

Sources of content. The featured datasets are managed by various OSPI departments.

The Public

Datasets

OSPI Databases

Why is the Clearinghouse important?

The Clearinghouse aims to serve OSPI staff, educational researchers, and practitioners working in the K-12 education system. Each of these groups face barriers to accessing, using, and/or sharing educational research and resources. Some of these barriers—along with how the Clearinghouse addresses them—are introduced below.

BARRIERS	SOLUTIONS

OSPI STAFF

The publishing of OSPI research and development has largely occurred within **departmental silos**—resulting in duplicate and/or unused work.

→ The Clearinghouse offers a **centralized** platform for staff to share work occurring across the agency's many divisions.

Inconsistent reporting of agency projects, along with employee turnover, has contributed to a **fragile institutional memory.**

→ The Clearinghouse **aids institutional memory** by archiving content emerging from internal work as well as internal-external partnerships.

Agency staff have **little time** to review external sources for research or tools that could assist decision-making.

→ By collecting and curating this content itself, the Clearinghouse **lessens the time** needed for staff to access this kind of content.

RESEARCHERS

Many OSPI research efforts are underpublicized. As such, researcher are often **unaware** of the agency's research needs.

→ The Clearinghouse publicizes OSPI-supported research, which, in turn, helps **guide** subsequent projects by external researchers.

Few avenues exist for researchers interested in having their work directly inform policy and practice.

→ The Clearinghouse provides such an avenue. It **paves the way** for researchers to increase the accessibility and reach of their work.

Researchers conducting their work in participatory or equity-focused ways often do so at the **expense** of scholarly recognition.

→ As part of its review process, the Clearinghouse **recognizes** content that advances educational equity and justice.

PRACTITIONERS

Practitioners have **little time** to review external sources for research or tools that could benefit their work.

→ By collecting and curating this content itself, the Clearinghouse **lessens the time needed** to access relevant content.

Practitioners may be **unaware** of OSPI-supported research and/or resources that have a direct bearing on their work.

→ The Clearinghouse is designed to **better publicize** this content.

Paywalls exist that keep practitioners from accessing research and resources of interest.

→ Not only is the Clearinghouse **free to access**, but it facilitates access to content that may otherwise exist behind a paywall.

Where can I learn more?

Thank you for consulting the Resource Clearinghouse FAQs document! If you're interested in learning more, please consider consulting these additional resources.

REVIEW PROTOCOL GUIDE

A more complete detailing of the Clearinghouse is available in *A Guide to the Resource Clearinghouse's Content Review Protocol*. The handbook expands on the information presented in this guide while also introducing additional information. This includes:

- Additional background information about the Clearinghouse's redesign.
- Tables of the standards/items utilized at each step of the review process.
- Contextual information about how these standards were developed.
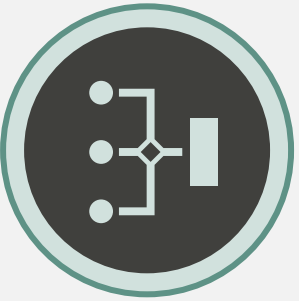
THEORY OF CHANGE

The Resource Clearinghouse's theory of change is a visual articulation of how it seeks to make an impact. The Clearinghouse engages in certain activities, produces certain outputs, and elicits certain outcomes—all in an effort to realize its two primary goals. The theory of change also:

- Specifies the Clearinghouse's intended short-term outcomes and longer-term impacts.
- Recognizes assumptions that must be met for the Clearinghouse to realize its goals.

COLLECTIONS & RECOGNITION CATALOG

This document introduces the Clearinghouse's new "collections" feature. Collections group content with similar qualities together in order to improve user experience, expand the Clearinghouse's reach, and promote agency priorities. The purpose of the document is to:

- Rationalize and contextualize the Clearinghouse's use of collections.
- Act as a catalog of all content featured in these collections—including content that has been recognized for embodying OSPI's commitment to educational equity.

CONTACT CISL STAFF

The Resource Clearinghouse is a public service managed by public servants. Our goal is to assist all users in maximizing their use of the Clearinghouse. As such, we invite any unanswered questions, comments, or concerns to be directed to RCCteam@k12.wa.us. We look forward to hearing from you!

How can I submit content to the Clearinghouse?

Please consider submitting content to the Clearinghouse! To make a submission, use the Clearinghouse Submission Form. The submission form includes options to submit your content via a file upload or by providing a URL at which the content can be found. Once your submission is complete, staff will review the content and decide if it warrants inclusion. Upon completion of their review, you will be notified of the team's decision via email.

Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION