

Citizen Constitution Programs

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$75,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$75,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for project citizen and we the people: The citizen and the constitution programs sponsored by the national conference of state legislatures and the center for civic education to promote participation in government by middle and high school students. Of the amounts provided, \$15,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$15,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for awarding a travel grant to the winner of the we the people: The citizen and the constitution state competition

Purpose

As the cornerstones of American democracy, civic education and participation are indispensable outcomes of the American public education system. Washington state's, "We the People" and "Project Citizen" programs provide structured and engaging entry points to civic education and engagement.

Description of Services Provided

This proviso supported a contract with Civic Education Washington State for services related to both the We the People and Project Citizen programs. Contracted services included:

- State Leadership
 - Maintained a State Coordinator to oversee program implementation
- Outreach and Professional Development
 - Hosted a Summer Institute from July 28-31, 2023
 - 25 educators attended
- Textbook Distribution
 - Distributed classroom sets of textbooks to 25 educators
- Student Events
 - Hosted a Project Citizen State Showcase
 - Two teachers and their student attended
 - Hosted a We the People State Competition
 - Two teachers and their students attended
- Travel Stipend to We the People's National Contest
 - Awarded a \$15,000 travel stipend to support the We the People State Champions in attending the National Contest.



Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

The Project Citizen and We the People programs are open to all Washington state social studies educators and their students. Participation in both the overall programs and their associated student events is optional.

Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

Number of School Districts	11
Number of Schools	23
Number of Students	The contractor did not track student participation numbers.
Number of Educators	29
Other	

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$75,000	\$72,825
2023	\$75,000	\$75,000
2022	\$75,000	\$75,000
2021	\$75,000	\$60,000
2020	\$75,000	\$60,000

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	11 Districts, 23 Schools (15 public, 8 private)
2023	5 Districts, 5 Schools
2022	7 Districts, 7 Schools
2021	14 Districts, 45 Schools
2020	9 Districts, no data on schools

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

OSPI shifted its implementation model from a grant to a contract this year. This shift increased the robustness and formality of both the services delivered through these two programs and their management.

Funding for the Project Citizen Proviso has increased several times since being established. It began at \$25,000 in 2010 and had reached \$75,000 by 2022, where it remains.

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

Students in the Project Citizen and We the People programs explored civic and community topics, as well as participated in student-focused civic engagement events. Educators received instructional training and classroom sets of textbooks.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

The contractor said that travel to state-level student events can be a challenge for participants, as they do not always receive financial support from their school districts for their participation in these programs.

Shifting the implementation model from a grant to a contract also required shifts in the style and quantity of administrative tasks. As the contractor's responsibilities became more robust and regimented, so did the need for increased OSPI oversight and support.

Future Opportunities

The We the People and Project Citizen programs have the potential to grow in both quality and quantity if embedded within a larger support network. A stable structure at the regional level, as well as deliberate alignment with the priorities of the administering agency and best practices in social studies education, would increase program capacity and benefit participants. There are also ample opportunities to align this work with OSPI's vision, goals, and services, including a clearer connection with Washington State Social Studies Learning Standards and revision of OSPI Developed Assessments in Civics.

Other Relevant Information

Teacher Gretchen Wulfing's class from Tahoma High School was named State Champion at the We the People State Competition. The \$15,000 travel stipend was awarded in support of their travel to the National Contest.

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

Districts: Kelso School District, Selkirk School District, Longview School District, Walla Walla School District, Evergreen Public Schools, Cheney School District, Yakima School District, Vancouver Public Schools, Centralia School District, Oak Harbor School District, Tahoma School District.

Public Schools: Wallace Elementary School, Selkirk Middle/High School, Kessler Elementary, Pioneer Middle School, Sunset Elementary School, Betz Elementary School, Green Park Elementary School, Lewis and Clark Middle School, Garrison Middle School, Frontier Middle School, Lincoln Elementary School, Centralia Middle School.

Private Schools: Patrick's Catholic School, Saint Luke School, Holy Family School, Cataldo Catholic School, Saint Michael's Catholic School, Christ the King Catholic School, Guardian Angel – Saint Boniface School, Bellarmine Preparatory School.

Program Contact Information

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