

Media Literacy/Digital Citizenship

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$300,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$300,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the superintendent to establish a media literacy and digital citizenship ambassador program to promote the integration of media literacy and digital citizenship instruction.

Purpose

Funding was provided to support professional learning opportunities for K–12 educators seeking to strengthen their Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship instruction and leadership skills. Participants engaged in synchronous learning sessions on Zoom with guest presenters who are experts in the field, asynchronous learning activities on the Canvas platform, and synchronous Community of Practice meetings on Zoom. In addition, funding supported work on integrating Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship into the revised English Language Arts standards and developing materials to support the standards roll-out.

Description of Services Provided

The funds were used directly by OSPI for the following: compensating guest presenters; contracting with a project manager; and purchasing and mailing books to participants in learning sessions that involved book studies. In addition, funds were used to compensate a consultant to review the work on integrating Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship into the revised English Language Arts standards.

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

Any K–12 educator who wanted to participate in a learning session was welcome to do so.

Beneficiaries in the 2023–24 School Year

Number of School Districts	60
Number of Schools	104
Number of Students	10,770
Number of Educators	147
Other	0

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No



State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$300,000	\$220,412
2023	\$300,000	\$299,673

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	147 educators
2023	27 educators

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

During the first year of this proviso, a pilot program was conducted. Based on the findings of that program, the following major changes were made: 1) Instead of limiting the professional learning opportunities to a small, selected group of educators, they were opened up to anyone who wanted to participate. 2) Instead of requiring participants to engage with all three elements of the program (synchronous learning sessions, asynchronous learning, synchronous Community of Practice meetings), they were split into separate strands. In addition, the synchronous learning sessions were divided into two more strands: one focused on instructional resources for teaching Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship, the other focused on strategies for integrating Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship into curriculum. Some participants only engaged with one of the options, while others engaged with some combination of two or more. This made it possible for participants to build their capacity for Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship instruction in the way that worked best for them and their schedules, without having to commit to an entire year of participation.

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

Based on feedback from this year, it's clear that educators appreciate multiple ways to engage with learning. Participants in the synchronous learning sessions indicated they learned a lot from the guest presenters, but educators who couldn't attend indicated they would have liked the opportunity to engage with the content asynchronously, at a time that worked better for them. Participants greatly appreciated receiving free copies of books that were being discussed. Participants in the Community of Practice meetings indicated they appreciated being able to connect with other educators across the state but would have liked the monthly meetings to have had more. Feedback indicated there is a demand for professional learning in August, during the period when most educators are planning what to do in the coming year. Participants from the first year's pilot program indicated they missed having a cohort to learn and work closely with and they missed the accountability of a program with requirements that had to be

met. The ideal situation would be to offer both a selected-cohort-with-accountability program and a choose-your-own-adventure, self-paced program.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

While it is heartening that there is so much demand from educators for Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship instruction support, with the introduction of the standards revision project, the workload has become too much for the one Program Supervisor who is responsible for all of the work. Ideally, the program should expand to include two dedicated OSPI staff members, especially since the demand will likely increase and the workload will undoubtedly increase as the revised standards are rolled out.

Future Opportunities

In response to the feedback about the synchronous learning sessions with guest presenters, more opportunities should be provided for self-paced, asynchronous learning. There should still be opportunities to engage with guest presenters in live Zoom sessions, but those should not be the only option. Some of the guest presenters were more effective than others, so some decisions will be made about which to continue hosting. Free books should continue to be provided. In response to the feedback about the Community of Practice, the monthly meetings will continue, but with a contracted facilitator who is an expert in providing focus, cohesion, and goal setting for Communities of Practice. Learning opportunities should be provided in mid-August. A major issue to address is the anticipated increase in demand for professional learning that specifically supports the Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship components of the revised English Language Arts standards.

Other Relevant Information

N/A

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

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

Program Contact Information

Name	Lesley James
Title	Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship Program Supervisor
Phone	360-584-2348
Email	lesley.james@k12.wa.us