



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Civics Education Travel Grant

1. **Purpose:**

The Civic Education Travel grant program is created to provide travel grants to students participating in statewide, regional, national, or international civic education competitions or events.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Schools may be awarded up to \$10,000 for past and/or future travel, depending on the number of applicants, with \$500 being the least amount awarded.

Evergreen School District: Students traveled to Olympia to present a simulated congressional hearing at the state finals competition for the We the People program.

North Mason School District: Students traveled to Olympia for the opportunity to meet District 35 Representatives and Senator and learned the process of a bill becoming law. They also learned how the Supreme Court works in a mock trial.

Tahoma School District: Students traveled to Olympia to present to legislators. In a Senate hearing format, six different We The People units of four students per unit presented a four-minute essay, which responded to three different challenging prompts regarding a contemporary issue which challenges our Constitution, such as free speech limitations, immigration policy, etc. After the presentation, students responded to six minutes of aggressive questioning by the judges.

Thorp School District: Students did not travel to Seattle, as planned, due to COVID. If they would have had the opportunity, they were to tour the Seattle Underground to learn how communities and government come together to solve problems and preserve their community's history.

West Valley School District: Students traveled to Davis High School in Yakima for the National History Day Regional Competition.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

Schools must meet the following criteria to be considered for grant selection:

- a. Students must be residents of the state of Washington;

- b. Students must use the grants to fund travel to civic education-based competitions or events;
- c. Students must be participants in the civic education competition or event; and
- d. Students must be under the age of twenty-one and not yet have received their high school diploma.

Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:

Number of School Districts: 4
Number of Schools: 5
Number of Students: 284
Number of Educators: 28
Other: *Name other...* N/A

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0 FTE

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY20 Funding: State Appropriation: \$10,000
Federal Appropriation: \$0
Other fund sources: \$0
TOTAL (FY20) \$10,000

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

No

Yes, please explain.

If state funds are not available, the state will not be eligible...

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY20	\$10,000	\$8,666
FY19	\$10,000	\$10,000

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

Fiscal Year	Number of School Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Educators
FY20	4	5	284	28
FY19	N/A	N/A	30	N/A

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

No changes since inception.

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

Students improved their writing, research, and presentation skills. They were able to enhance their understanding of our how both state and federal governments operate and also fulfill the requirement by the College Board for AP US Government and Politics to do a civic engagement project. They learned how to apply and present constitutional principles to contemporary, challenging issues and learned civil discourse with professionals who disagreed with their point of view and challenged their options. Students also helped host candidate forums and Town Hall meetings where community members could participate in civil discourse.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

Due to COVID-19 and the stay at home order, Project Citizen's We the People competition was canceled, so the students did not get to compete; additionally, the students of the History Day competition did not have the opportunity to share their results with the school board and community as usual.

Absent the pandemic, the estimated number of travelers would have been: 378 students and 39 teachers.

10. **Future opportunities:**

This grant provides important civic travel opportunities. We are hopeful for continued funding.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 6168, Sec. 520 (3)(b) \$10,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$10,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for grant programs to school districts to help cover travel costs associated with civics education competitions.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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