



# Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

## **K-12 Open Education Resources**

### 1. **Purpose:**

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching and learning materials that are free to use, adapt, and share. OER:

- Give districts flexibility to shift funds from content acquisition to other critical areas that support teaching and learning;
- Empower districts to make adaptations to support their students; and
- Promote equitable access to strong materials for all students.

The OSPI K-12 OER Project is focused on:

- **OER Awareness and Advocacy:** increasing district awareness of OER and providing resources to locate, evaluate, adopt, and implement OER.
- **OER Review and Development:** working with districts to develop full-course or unit level OER aligned to learning standards.
- **OER Library Curation:** maintaining a library of resources that have been developed by OSPI grantees or collaborators and aligned to Washington K-12 Learning Standards

### 2. **Description of services provided:**

- [Washington OER Hub](#) – The Washington OER Hub is an online platform for freely sharing K-12 open educational resources. Curated and created for and by Washington educators, the site promotes equitable access to standards-aligned, quality instructional materials.
- [OER Grants](#) – competitive grant program that assists with district development or adaptation of OER core instructional materials aligned to state learning standards in a specific content area.
- [OER Summits and Professional Learning Events](#) – webinars, workshops, and conference presentations raise awareness and build district capacity to implement OER
- Technical assistance and content-specific work sessions – support to school districts and Educational Service Districts exploring, implementing, or adapting OER and assistance to additional OSPI grantees and contractors producing resources that adhere to [OSPI Open Policy](#).

4. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**
- Any educator can access, download, and adapt instructional materials on the Washington OER Hub or attend OER professional learning events.
  - To receive OER grant funding, grantees must:
    - develop/adapt core or unit-level OER aligned to state learning standards.
    - demonstrate impact beyond a single class (e.g. collaboration between multiple districts, Educational Service Districts, local Tribes, or community-based organizations).
    - submit developed content to the Washington OER Hub, so that material can be accessed and used by educators and districts across the state.

**Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:**

**Number of School Districts:** 180 (professional learning) 8 (grants– includes one ESD serving 30 additional districts)  
**Number of Students:** 21,147 (grants)  
**Number of Educators:** 1854 (professional learning) 435 (grants)

**Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):** 1.1 FTE  
**Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:** 1 Contract

**FY20 Funding: State Appropriation:** \$250,000  
**Federal Appropriation:** \$0  
**Other fund sources:** \$0  
**TOTAL (FY20)** \$250,000

5. **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...*

6. **State funding history:**

| <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Amount Funded</b> | <b>Actual Expenditures</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| FY20               | \$250,000            | \$239,500                  |
| FY19               | \$250,000            | \$232,090                  |
| FY18               | \$250,000            | \$246,362                  |
| FY17               | \$250,000            | \$218,088                  |
| FY16               | \$250,000            | \$215,882                  |
| FY15               | \$250,000            | \$190,965                  |
| FY14               | \$250,000            | \$186,686                  |

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

| <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Number of Students</b> | <b>Number of Educators</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| FY20*              | 21147                     | 2289                       |
| FY19*              | 6450                      | 1628                       |
| FY18*              | 6172                      | 1694                       |
| FY17*              | 7935                      | 2131                       |
| FY16*              | 17581                     | 2554                       |
| FY15*              | 22504                     | 2225                       |
| FY14*              | 23,017                    | 1,902                      |

\* These numbers include totals from grants, workshops, meetings, and presentations

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

Addition of a competitive grant program in FY14

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

**OER Review and Development**

- Continued a competitive OER grant program to support districts as they adapt, develop, or implement OER. This year, over 400 teachers and 20,000 students have directly benefited, with many more sharing the benefits of the openly accessible work.
  - [Final OER Grantee Reports 2019-2020](#)
  - Visit grantees and groups developing OER on the [Washington OER Hub](#)
- With the Social Studies Cadre, created an instructional materials [review tool](#) based on the new Social Studies Standards.

**OER Library Curation – Washington OER Hub**

- Redesigned the Washington OER Hub ([overview document](#)), creating OSPI curated collections of resources for educators to use with students during this time of increased remote learning. Resources are organized for specific content areas and different target audiences (e.g. families, students with disabilities, youngest learners). Data analytics for resource access from the Hub showed an increase when remote learning started. Below are few of the most frequently viewed OSPI/collaborator resources:
  - OSPI Continuous Learning Resource Suggestions
  - Elections and Voting Teacher Resources
  - Reading in the Time of COVID-19: Free access to online reading
  - High School Integrated Physics and Chemistry Course
  - State We're In Washington

## OER Awareness and Advocacy

- Began recording [Washington OER Hub Highlights](#) 10-15 minute YouTube sessions focusing on an exemplar district developed resource.
- OER presentations, webinars, and trainings reached over 1800 educators
- Washington continues to play a leadership role in a cohort of other states recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for their commitment to support school districts and educators transitioning to the use of quality, openly licensed educational resources in their schools.
  - [U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Technology - #GoOpen States](#)

### 10. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

Limited staff make serving greater numbers of districts and educators difficult. This has become especially noticeable during this period of increased demand for remote learning and freely accessible quality digital resources.

### 11. **Future opportunities:**

With the COVID-19 crisis requiring districts to implement blended or remote learning strategies, the Washington OER Hub is poised to provide many needed resource options and supports to help schools, students, families, and communities.

Currently, we do not require registration on the Washington OER hub. So, while we see numbers of visits/shared/downloaded resources, we do not know what specific districts they are coming from. A new strategy for inviting educators using the site to enter their profile information is being implemented (optional – since some districts do not allow their educators to use sites where registration is required). This will provide a more robust idea of numbers of Washington users.

### 12. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 6032, Sec. 501(1)(j) \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for implementation of chapter 178, Laws of 2012 (open K-12 education resources).

### 13. **Other relevant information:**

By continuing to expand the library of high quality openly licensed courseware and aid districts in the development and adaptation of open materials, the OER Project can play a huge role in providing equitable access to core instructional materials.

- Provide a platform for sharing work beyond district LMS
- Allow for adaptation of materials to update, differentiate, and iterate

- Legal sharing of content with an open license
- Facilitate collaborative development of resources with OSPI, educators, ESDs, and other partners
- Reduce duplication of efforts and promote professional learning
- Increase “discoverability” of high-quality instructional materials

Since legislation passed in 2012 ([RCW 28A.300.803](#)), the K–12 OER Project has advocated for OER as an important part of the instructional materials ecosystem. Washington is receiving considerable recognition nationally for this leadership -- from the Council of Chief State School Officers, the State Educational Technology Directors’ Association, and the U.S. Department of Education.

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

See [OSPI’s Grantee List](#)

15. **Program Contact Information:**

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