

Project-Based Learning–History Day

**2018 Supplemental Budget
Decision Package**

Agency: 350 Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Decision Package Code/Title: SP/Project-Based Learning–History Day

Budget Period: 2018 Supplemental

Budget Level: PL

Agency Recommendation Summary Text:

The Superintendent is requesting additional support for National History Day (NHD) in Washington through (1) increased funding, and (2) stronger administrative backing. Due to financial constraints, individual student participation fees for NHD in Washington have increased, leading to a decrease in the number of districts, schools, and students able to participate in the program beyond the classroom level. This request is for \$150,000 in state funds and \$50,000 in private/local funds for FY 19. In this request, OSPI is proposing that the administering agency deliver a comprehensive educational campaign, one that reaches every district in Washington State.

Fiscal Summary:

Operating Expenditures	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Fund 001-1 (Program 010)	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Fund 001-7 (Program 010)	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total Cost	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Staffing	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
FTEs	\$0	.9	.9	.9
Revenue	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Fund 001 Source Code 05-41	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Object of Expenditure	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Obj. A	\$0	\$64,487	\$64,487,	\$64,487
Obj. B	\$0	\$33,638	\$33,638	\$33,638
Obj. C	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. E	\$0	\$58,745	\$58,745	\$58,745
Obj. G	\$0	\$39,630	\$43,130	\$43,130
Obj. J	\$0	\$3,500	\$0	\$0
Obj. N	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Package Description:

Background:

OSPI seeks to secure adequate funding and administrative support for National History Day (NHD) in Washington State, a program that offers a yearlong, project-based history experience for middle and high school students. Participating students are challenged to conduct historical research using primary and secondary sources while exploring multiple perspectives and interpretations of America's past. Ultimately, students must create a dramatic performance, multimedia documentary, museum exhibit, website, or academic paper based on the research they have conducted. Students can enter their projects at district, regional, and state levels, with top students advancing to a national contest.

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While Washington teachers and students have experienced success while participating in NHD, the program has faced its share of challenges. Chief among these are (1) a lack of stable and adequate funding, and (2) an inability to overcome an educational opportunity gap.

Current Situation:

Faced with a lack of stable funding, NHD in Washington State has been increasingly required to pay for itself. Individual student participation fees have more than doubled since the program's inception, with the latest jump in fees showing an 88% increase in a single year. Data summarizing individual student fees during the past ten years are as follows:

- \$30.00 2007-13
- \$35.00 2014-15
- \$40.00 2015-16
- \$75.00 2016-17

Even with a sliding-scale fee structure in place, some districts cannot direct funds from their already strained budgets to support student participation at the district, regional, or state level. This is especially true for small and rural districts that have a large percentage of students qualifying for free-and-reduced-price school lunches.

In short, the current “pay to play” or “pay to participate” fee structure is unfair to students from low-income families or to students who reside in districts that don't have the fiscal resources to pay for participation beyond the school setting. This problem is growing more severe, and consequently, greater inequality of opportunity is the result.

The NHD program is, and has always been, in line with our state's educational agenda. However, many schools and districts have never heard about or been exposed to this program. NHD must have administrative support that can effectively publicize the program.

Among other things, schools and districts need to know that NHD is a program that can increase academic achievement, close opportunity gaps, increase pathways to graduation, and support the statewide assessment system. NHD can serve as a highly visible example of rigorous learning that epitomizes 21st Century learning (raising academic achievement), while making curriculum available to every middle school and high school (helping close opportunity gaps). NHD offers an alternative to sit-and-get instruction, an opportunity to increase pathways to graduation, and will help improve our statewide assessment system through classroom-based assessments aligned to Washington State K-12 Social Studies Learning Standards, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Literacy in History/Social Studies; and the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework.

Proposed Solution:

1. Stable and Adequate Funding

Money will be earmarked specifically for NHD rather than being melded into a larger agency budget. This assurance of stable funding will allow History Day to flourish. Dollars earmarked for the sole purpose of supporting History Day will allow district, regional, and state programs to be planned and provided to all students, not just students who reside in districts that can afford the ever-increasing registration fees.

2. Greater Support and Oversight

The agency administering the program must have the capacity to communicate directly to each of the 295 school districts in the state, either directly or with a partner agency. It will need to collect data from every district in the state. Data analytics will target those schools and districts that do not currently offer History Day and provide professional learning opportunities in which teachers can explore the pedagogy behind History Day and learn how to pass this knowledge to their students. Targeted outreach efforts to districts without a History Day

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program will open the opportunity to more students of color, more students from low-income families, and more students from populations who have faced systemic barriers to their success. NHD can serve as one tool in closing the opportunity gaps that currently exist.

Adequately funding NHD is key to providing the necessary stability the program currently lacks. Providing comprehensive outreach efforts is key to overcoming the opportunity gap. Without secure and adequate funding, NHD in Washington will never reach its potential. With secure and adequate funding, NHD in Washington can reach out to every one of our 295 school districts, providing information about its project-based curriculum and the opportunities for student participation in learning that take them far beyond the four walls of a classroom.

This funding request would support a .7 FTE NHD Coordinator and .20 FTE Assistant Coordinator who would plan and implement a statewide program to include eight regional teacher workshops, NHD contests in schools in every region, and a statewide contest of regional winners to identify students moving forward to the national NHD competition. Funding would also provide for equipment and space rental for regional and state contests, student support for contest registration fees, student appreciation awards, office supplies and equipment, teaching materials, printing and reproduction, training, and travel for the History Day Coordinator to attend workshops and History Day contests.

Expected Sources of Support and Matching Funds

With stable public funding, Washington State History Day will be better able to raise private funding. In the past, financial support for History Day has come from a number of sources including The Washington State Historical Society, the Teachers' Advisory Committee, the Office of Secretary of State, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Colonial Dames of Washington.

Contact person:

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Base Budget: If the proposal is an expansion or alteration of a current program or service, provide information on the resources now devoted to the program or service.

This would be a new program for OSPI, so there is no base budget.

Decision Package expenditure, FTE and revenue assumptions, calculations and details:

Annual costs are based on the use of a .7 FTE Program Coordinator and .2 FTE Support Staff; standard allowances for goods, services and travel; and includes costs for 8 regional event/teacher workshops and 1 statewide event.

Decision Package Justification and Impacts

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

With secure and adequate funding, OSPI expects that a greater number of schools and districts will participate in Washington State History Day each year, with the desired result being that more and more students will receive this high-caliber educational opportunity.

Performance Measure detail:

Performance measures will be based on several factors including the number of individuals who participate at each level of NHD: school, district, region, state, and nation. Additional performance measures can be added. For example, the number of students who earn national recognition is one indication of a successful program. Another is the overall quality of the student performances as assessed by judges using a common rubric.

Fully describe and quantify expected impacts on state residents and specific populations served.

The full impact of this program will be measured in terms of student, teacher, school, and district participation. Each year the number of participating students, teachers, schools, and districts will be recorded and compared to previous years. Using year one to establish benchmark measure, all subsequent growth will be quantifiable.

Distinction between one-time and ongoing costs:

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All costs are ongoing.

What are other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

Impact(s) To:		Identify / Explanation
Regional/County impacts?	No	Identify:
Other local gov't impacts?	Yes	Identify: School districts around the state will have increased access to the NHD program.
Tribal gov't impacts?	Yes	Identify: Tribal Compact schools will also receive access to NHD program offerings.
Other state agency impacts?	No	Identify:
Responds to specific task force, report, mandate or exec order?	No	Identify:
Does request contain a compensation change?	No	Identify:
Does request require a change to a collective bargaining agreement?	No	Identify:
Facility/workplace needs or impacts?	No	Identify:
Capital Budget Impacts?	No	Identify:
Is change required to existing statutes, rules or contracts?	No	Identify:
Is the request related to or a result of litigation?	No	Identify lawsuit (please consult with Attorney General's Office):
Is the request related to Puget Sound recovery?	No	If yes, see budget instructions Section 14.4 for additional instructions
Identify other important connections		

Please provide a detailed discussion of connections/impacts identified above.

N/A

What alternatives were explored by the agency and why was this option chosen?

There are only two other alternatives that were explored: (1) request more money, or (2) request less money, even down to the option of requesting no money at all. Clearly, a request for a greater sum would be desirable in that it would allow for greater expansion of the National History Day program. However, recognizing that there are many worthy programs that need funding, OSPI decided to seek a middle ground by requesting an amount deemed sufficient to run NHD at a modest level. Funding will support the program while we determine what funding sources beyond the \$150,000 legislative allocation can be marshalled to better support this educational program.

What are the consequences of not funding this request?

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The consequences of not funding this request are clear. Without money, National History Day will end. There will be no district or regional contests. There will be no state contest. While individual schools and districts might encourage their teachers to facilitate project-based learning or various social studies inquiries, these efforts would be largely confined to the classroom. Without the ability to share NHD projects with audiences beyond the classroom, student participation will decline. Currently, the contests are a major motivator; students devote untold hours in the pursuit of educational excellence, striving to continually improve their NHD projects. In the process, students engage in rigorous inquiry that requires research and analysis followed by production and presentation of their work.

How has or can the agency address the issue or need in its current appropriation level?


In the past, OSPI has given an annual contribution of \$4,000 to support NHD in Washington State. If NHD is maintained, OSPI will continue the same financial support.

Other supporting materials:

Activity Inventory:

Activity Inventory Item	Prog	Staffing			Operating Expenditures		
		FY 2018	FY 2019	Avg	FY 2018	FY 2019	Total
A019	010		.9	.5	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Total Activities					\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000

Information technology: Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, services (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

No 

Yes Continue to IT Addendum below and follow the directions on the bottom of the addendum to meet requirements for OCIO review.)