K-12 Open Educational 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 learning and teaching.
- Empower districts to make adaptations to support their students.
- Promote equitable access to high-quality, standards aligned materials for all students.
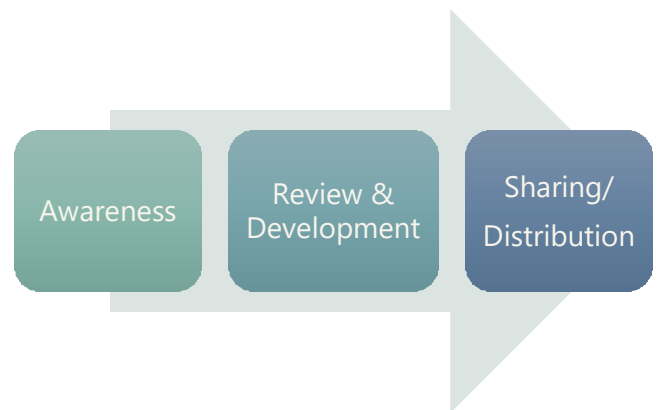
In implementing 2012 legislation for open K-12 education resources ([RCW 28A.300.803)](#), the first of its kind for K-12 across the country, the [OSPI OER Project](#) was created.

The OSSPI OER Project targets:

OER Awareness and Advocacy: increasing district awareness of OER and providing resources and technical assistance to locate, evaluate, adopt, and implement these materials.

OER Review and Development: working with districts and other partners to identify and develop openly licensed instructional material aligned to Washington learning standards.

Awareness → Review & Development → Sharing/ Distribution

OER Sharing/Distribution: maintaining an online library of high-quality, standards aligned resources developed by OSPI grantees or collaborators.

2. Description of services provided:

[Washington OER Hub](#) – the Washington OER Hub is an online library of free, high-quality, K-12 open educational resources (OER) created by and curated for Washington educators. All materials align with Washington State learning standards and may be downloaded, adapted, and shared to better serve all students.

[OER Grants](#) – this competitive grant program assists with district or educational non-profit development or adaptation of OER instructional materials in areas of high need identified by school districts.

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.

3. ## 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, unit, or lesson-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 the 2022-23 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	**85** (professional learning events – only tracked districts in events with required registration) **22+** (grants awarded: four districts, two ESDs serving 12 additional districts, two higher education institutions, and four Washington non-profit organizations)
Number of Schools:	**117** (professional learning events – only tracked districts in events with required registration)
Number of Students:	**6,029** (grants-first use of instructional materials)
Number of Educators:	**1,191** (professional learning) **120** (grants)

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

☒ No

5. ## State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	$250,000	$218,238
2022	$250,000	$220,392
2021	$250,000	$230,065
2020	$250,000	$239,500
2019	$250,000	$232,090

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Students	Number of Educators
FY22	23,360	2,411
FY21	7,745	3,741
FY20*	21,147	2,289
FY19*	6,450	1,628
FY18*	6,172	1,694
FY17*	7,935	2,131
FY16*	17,581	2,554
FY15*	22,504	2,225
FY14*	23,017	1,902

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

Addition of a competitive grant program in FY14.

8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:
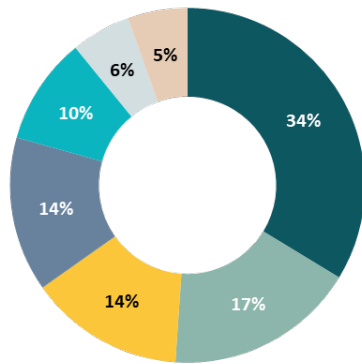
OER Awareness and Advocacy

- Webinars and presentations reaching over 1100 educators and administrators. Venues include:
  - o Washington State Council for Social Studies
  - o Financial Education Public Private Partnership
  - o ClimeTime
  - o Northwest Council for Computer Education
  - o Washington Library Association
  - o Open Education Conference
- Member of the Leadership team for the #GoOpen National Network, made up of educators and leaders who support the advancement of a national infrastructure for K-12 open education to improve teaching and learning for all.

OER Review and Development

- Continued a competitive OER grant program to support districts as they adapt, develop, or implement OER.
  - o Over 100 teachers and 6,000 students directly benefited, with many more sharing the benefits of the openly accessible work.
  - o This year, 71 new lessons/units and 2 full courses were created in the following areas:

Legend:
- World and Heritage Languages — 34%
- Social Studies — 17%
- Health & Physical Education — 14%
- Science — 14%
- Financial Education — 10%
- K-2 Literacy — 6%
- STEM — 5%

Visit grantee resources

Download abstract
of grant efforts

Watch the 2023
OER Grantee
Showcase

- Provided technical assistance and OER development training to additional OSPI grantees in the following programs:
    - ClimeTime: science teacher training around Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and climate science - SB 5092, Section 522 (4)(c)
    - Digital Citizenship/Media Literacy: Open Educational Resources to support digital citizenship, media literacy and Internet safety in schools - SB5242
    - Kip Tokuda Memorial Civil Liberties Public Education: RCW 28A.300.410

OER Sharing and Distribution – Washington OER Hub
- Expanded the Washington OER Hub, increasing pool of both OSPI curated collections of resources and materials created by OSPI grantees, collaborating organizations, and contractors. During FY23, 73 robust lessons and units aligned with Washington learning standards were added to the platform.
- Below are few of the most frequently viewed resources in FY23 based on the hub data analytics:
    - Digital Survival Skills Module 1: My Media Environment
    - Deepfakes: Exploring Media Manipulation
    - Mathematically Productive Instructional Routines
    - Human Geography: An open textbook for Advanced Placement
    - NGSS Resource Sets for Teaching Science and Integrating with ELA
    - Elections and Voting Teacher Resources
    - The State We're In: Washington (Eighth Edition and Teacher Guide)
    - The State We're In: Washington (Grades 3-5 Edition)
    - Screening for Biased Content in Instructional Materials
- Contracted with expert educators to curate additional resources for learning collections, reviewing materials for alignment to learning standards and other indicators of quality.
    - Washington OER Hub – Resource Submission Criteria.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

Since 2012, $250,000 of the general fund (annually) has been appropriated this purpose. That figure has remained static over the years though the needs and reach of the project have increased dramatically.
- Limited staff (1) make serving greater numbers of districts, educators, and internal OSPI teams difficult. This has become especially noticeable during this period of increased demand for remote learning and freely accessible quality digital resources.
- Adoption of an open licensing policy by OSPI in 2016, also the first of its kind by a state education agency, led to requirements for all instructional materials created by staff, contractors, and grantees to be openly licensed. As a result, resources created through programs funded through the legislature like ClimeTime, Digital Citizenship/Media

[Literacy](#), and [Kip Tokuda Memorial Civil Liberties Public Education, are also being made available to everyone via the Washington OER Hub.](#) This has required internal support for the policy as well as technical assistance and OER development training to additional OSPI grantees.

10. Future opportunities:

As districts depend on high-quality instructional materials, the OSPI OER Project and the associated Washington OER Hub are poised to provide many needed free and open resource options and support to help schools, students, families, and communities. Below are recommendations for future expansion of the program to serve an even wider state audience:

- Additional staff person to meet increased project demand for internal and external technical assistance, professional learning, OER awareness efforts, and Washington OER Hub maintenance.
- Increased grant funding for OER development, adaptation, and implementation efforts in areas that reflect district and student needs as well as OSPI strategic goals.
- Creation of a diverse educator reviewer pool across content areas to evaluate OSPI grantee developed work and ensure established quality criteria prior to inclusion in Washington OER Hub Learning Collections.
- Partnerships with the Office of Native Education and Multilingual Education Program at OSPI to increase awareness and implementation of high-quality, standards-aligned materials developed by OSPI grantees, contractors, and collaborators.

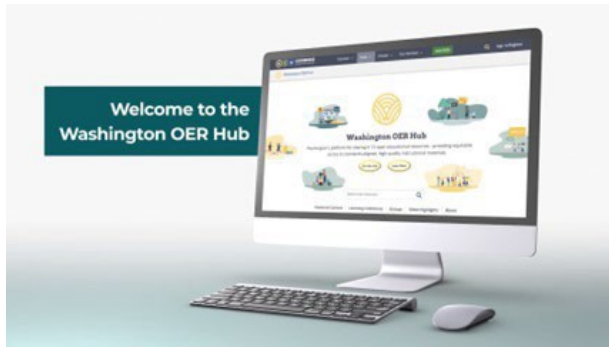## 11. Statutory and/or budget language:

$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and $250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for implementation of chapter 178, Laws of 2012 (open K-12 education resources).

12. Other relevant information:

One-time ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) funds were leveraged to expand the number of OER Project grants awarded this year in areas identified by districts as high priority in the OSPI Data Summary of the 2021 Washington LEA Academic and Student Well-being Plans:

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) supports
- Inclusionary practices
- K-4 literacy efforts
- Mastery based/project-based learning

Additionally, support from ESSER funds allowed for collaboration and contracting with Team Soapbox, to develop and implement a communications plan for the Washington OER Hub. This partnership enabled the facilitated the reorganization of the Washington OER Hub as well as the development of videos designed to increase awareness and usage of the platform.

[Welcome to the Washington OER Hub](#)
3:35 min.
[Washington OER Hub: Benefits to educators](#)
2:34 min.

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

[preliminaryfy23state-fundedprovisograntawardsupdated-42823.xlsx (live.com)](#)

14. Program Contact Information:

Name:	Barbara Soots
Title:	OER and Instructional Materials Program Manager
Phone:	360-764-3612
Email:	barbara.soots@k12.wa.us