



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Civics Education

1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Civic Education Initiative is, at large, to ensure that students have basic knowledge about national, state, tribal, and local governments, and that they develop the skills and dispositions needed to become informed and engaged citizens. These funds allow OSPI, individually and in partnership with civic organizations, to support districts in meeting .5 credit civics graduation requirement, provide professional development, support early voter registration, develop middle level civics resources and materials, and update the civics learning standards. It also supports OSPI's responsibility under [RCW.28A.300.375](#) to administer the Washington History Day program—a dynamic program for students in grades 6-12 that encourages them to become historians while fostering research, analysis, and presentation skills.

2. **Description of services provided:**

1. Contracted with four educators to create teacher guides and student materials for "The State We're In: Washington," an elementary-level civics textbook created by the League of Women Voters. The materials will be available on the Washington OER Commons website.
2. Expanded OSPI materials and resources for Temperance and Good Citizenship Day and provided online professional development to encourage educators to pre-register voters and to teach about elections K–12.
3. Partnered with two Washington State Legislators, the Civic Learning Council, and the National Constitution Center to provide professional development about engaging in civil conversations about controversial topics in the classroom.
4. Facilitated state presentations at the fall 2020 and winter 2021 Washington State Council for the Social Studies conferences, providing resources, materials, and guidance on civics education K–12.
5. Provided \$150,000 of the Civics Proviso funds to the Washington History Day program. This funding covered the salary and benefits for one FTE Program Coordinator, one 0.4 FTE Administrative Assistant, and a portion of the program's operating costs (the remaining costs being covered by private donations). OSPI's program staff and contracted partners supported eight virtual regional contests, virtual state and national contests, educator outreach and resources, and support for student researchers.

6. Provided additional funding for the League of Women Voters' (LWV) textbook "The State We're In: Washington" elementary version.
7. Produced civics action videos and provided incentives to interviewed students.
8. Contributed \$20,000 to the Project Based Learning (PBL) Summer Learning grant focused on a complex question, problem, or challenge that would enhance student learning and meaningfully integrate standards-aligned content.
9. Partnered with ESD 112 to support teacher teams creating Inquiry Design Model Civics Lessons to be shared and implemented in K–12 classrooms state-wide.

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

All services and materials provided to support civics professional learning were accessible to all teachers in the state. The ESD Civics Training grants stipulated that participating teachers do one or more of the following: Access and/or build C3 IDM lessons for civics instruction, provide technical assistance in understanding the revised learning standards, access research and demonstrate ways to incorporate literacy skills, access resources for building and implementing a high school civics course, and access OSPI's OER Commons and League of Women Voters' "The State We're In: Washington" text and OSPI materials.

Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	295 School districts, 6 Tribal compact Schools, and the Washington Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss benefitted from this proviso supporting high quality Civics education.
Number of Schools:	Indeterminate
Number of Students:	Indeterminate
Number of Educators:	Indeterminate
Other:	0

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):	1.4 FTE
Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:	6 Contracts

FY21 Funding: State Appropriation:	\$363,000
Federal Appropriation:	\$0
Other fund sources:	\$0
TOTAL (FY21)	\$363,000

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

- No
 Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	\$363,000	\$234,932
FY20	\$374,000	\$241,124
FY19	\$230,000	\$171,762

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
FY21	295+	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
FY20	295	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
FY19	295	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

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

Focus shifted from the cataloguing of resources and materials, and revised civics standards, to a greater focus on supporting implementation of Civics education K–12 with emphasis on supporting high schools as they transition to stand-alone course offerings.

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

The virtual environment enabled teachers from more districts to participate in Zoom conferences and events. Social Studies cadre members (educators that serve as an advisory group to the state) developed tools used with this cohort that could easily be updated and shared with others. As part of our ESD 112 collaboration, project participants created (or began) their own Civics Inquiry Task. These have already been shared across the cohorts. We expect the highest quality inquiries to be shared statewide.

The Washington History Day program facilitated deep development and application of social studies skills—most specifically historical research and critical thinking—in approximately 1,000 students statewide. These estimated participant numbers are lower than previous years due to the limited time and resources available to educators and students as a result of educational shifts during Covid-19. Washington State students represented themselves and the state well in the 2021 National History Day competition: the delegation of 61 students earned two finalist entries

and six “special honors.” Additionally, both of Washington’s nominees for the Behring Teacher of the Year Award were selected as finalists.

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

Districts and educators had significant demands on their time as they adjusted to remote learning and other challenges posed by Covid-19. It was often difficult to find times where professional development and other supports could be provided consistently.

The pandemic also challenged the Washington History Day (WHD) program in completing the three levels of History Day competitions. However, all contests were able to plan and implement virtual events to ensure students received this valuable opportunity to share their learning and receive expert feedback. Washington History Day’s private fundraisers had difficulty soliciting donations to support the program’s operations during the pandemic, but the reduced cost of virtual events successfully mitigated the shortfall in private donations. Support for the regional level of the WHD program remains a concern, as Regional Coordinators statewide are all volunteers and must self-fund their local programs, in addition to donating their time while teaching virtually.

10. **Future opportunities:**

We will continue to build the ESD Civics Education Training Grant program, expand our library of openly licensed materials and resources for Civics education, partner with TVW, The Office of Secretary of State, and other Civic organizations to provide high quality resources and professional development. We will also continue to build stronger regional foundations for Washington History Day.

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

ESSB 5092, Sec. 1518 (3)(b) - \$384,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$373,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for 2021 are provided solely for implementation of Second Substitute House Bill No. 1896 (civics education). Of the amounts provided in this subsection (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:**

The number of beneficiaries is indeterminable due to the scale of the civics education and Washington History Day programs in reaching all districts through:
1) Online professional development and conferences.

- 2) Regional and state competitions.
 - 3) Open Educational Resources platform.
 - 4) Adoption of the Social Studies Learning Standards into schools.
- This work is authorized through Senate Bill 1896 (2018).

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

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **rogram Contact Information:**

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See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)