



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

## **African American History Work Group**

### 1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of the African American Studies Workgroup (AASW) is to develop recommendations for integrating African American history into existing social studies curriculum provided to students in grades seven through twelve and for providing professional development needed for educators to implement the curriculum.

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

Through a contract with a professional co-facilitator who worked in coordination with OSPI, the following services were provided:

- Creation of an African American History Work Group including the following:
  - One representative from the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs (CAAA);
  - One representative from the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC);
  - One representative from a statewide organization representing teachers;
  - Persons with unique and specific expertise, including but not limited to, Washington state historians and persons representing teacher preparation programs.
- Co-facilitation of six meetings between September 9, 2020 and October 30, 2020:
  - The workgroup formed four sub-committees:
    - Policy, curriculum, pedagogy, and professional development
  - The sub-committees considered ideas that would ultimately form the basis for the workgroup recommendations.
  - The large group synthesized and refined the sub-committee ideas, coming to consensus on the recommendations.
- A final [report with recommendations](#), submitted to the legislature in November, 2020.

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

N/A

### **Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:**

**Number of School Districts:** N/A

**Number of Schools:** N/A  
**Number of Students:** N/A  
**Number of Educators:** N/A  
**Other:** N/A

**Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):** 0 FTE  
**Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:** 1 Contract

**FY21 Funding: State Appropriation:** \$50,000  
**Federal Appropriation:** \$0  
**Other fund sources:** \$0  
**TOTAL (FY21)** \$50,000

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	\$50,000	\$41,943

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	Number of Other
FY21	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

None

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

The following recommendations are taken directly from the African American Studies Workgroup’s final report. To address both short and long-term recommendations, the workgroup recommended the immediate next steps:

1. Invest in professional development supports for teaching African American studies.

2. Continue the African American Studies Workgroup to develop an African American studies framework and to advise OSPI and Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) in future work.
3. In all future phases of work, require and provide funding to meaningfully engage community members and key stakeholders. Note: this may include stipends for community members to compensate for their labor, travel expenses for community collaboration, etc.
4. Dedicate OSPI staff time to continue to support, collaborate, and provide accountability to community through the workgroup, as co-creators in realizing the legislative intent of this work. Note: This work is complex and requires careful guidance. We recommend, at a minimum, .2 funding for an Associate Director position and .2 funding for an AA3 position to ensure that this work is supported at the agency through sustained development and implementation of a developed African American Studies framework, resources, and materials and high quality professional development.

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

Community building work was difficult with meetings exclusively held remotely. African American Studies and other culturally responsive work is best done when strong relationships are built in community. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to meet in person, meaning additional time was needed to build trusting relationships which, while successful, slowed the work and limited what could be accomplished.

10. **Future opportunities:**

Continuation of this work through future policy or funding initiatives. For FY22 and FY23, the legislature provided an additional \$400,000 for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to continue this work by partnering with community members and organizations to develop a clear definition of African American Studies in grades 7–12, plan for implementation across disciplines, and plan professional development for educators and administrators. This work will build on the recommendations of the African American Studies workgroup.

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

ESSB 5092, Sec. 1510 (3)(h) ~~((i))~~ (i) \$50,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 is provided solely for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a work group to develop recommendations for integrating in a regular and ongoing basis, African American history, examinations of racism, and the history of the civil rights movement into curriculum provided to students in grades seven through twelve. Recommendations developed in accordance with this subsection must be preceded by a work group review of pertinent curriculum that is available to school districts, and must include recommendations for the professional development needed to support educators in providing the instruction to students.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

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

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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