

2019-21 Biennial Budget Decision Package

Agency: 350 – Supt of Public Instruction

DP code/title: Open Educational Resources

Budget period: 19-21 Regular Session

Budget level: ML

Agency RecSum text:

The Legislature passed House Bill 1561 (2018) to repeal the June 30, 2018 expiration date of the Open Educational Resources (OER) program at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Funding to continue the program was inadvertently omitted from the 2018 Supplemental Operating Budget, and on March 21, 2018, the Legislature wrote that it was their intention to provide \$250,000 in the 2019 Supplemental Budget to continue the program. Funds will be used to provide grants to school districts to develop OER instructional materials and to provide staffing at OSPI to administer the program.

Fiscal detail: To be completed by budget staff

Operating Expenditures	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
General Fund – State 001-01	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Total Expenditures	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Biennial Totals	\$500,000		\$500,000	
Staffing	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
FTEs	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Average Annual	1.1		1.1	
Object of Expenditure	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
A – Salaries and Benefits	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000
B – Employee Benefits	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
E – Goods and Services	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
G – Travel	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
N – Grants, Benefits & Client Services	63,000	63,000	63,000	63,000

Package description

Open educational resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license. These resources are free and available for use by anyone.

The K–12 Open Educational Resources project began in 2012. Under the project, OSPI has: expanded OER for educators; established a grant program to support K–12 districts to adapt, develop, or implement OER; and developed an OSPI Copyright and Open Licensing Policy; among other tasks.

This project was originally set to expire on June 30, 2018. The Legislature passed House Bill 1561 in 2018, removing the expiration date of the K–12 OER project and making the project permanent. Funding to continue the program was inadvertently omitted from the 2018 Supplemental Operating Budget. Funding is required to provide grants to school districts for the development of OER instructional materials aligned to state learning standards and to provide staffing at OSPI to administer the program. On March 21, 2018, the Legislature wrote that it was their intention to provide \$250,000 in the 2019 Supplemental Budget to continue the program.

What is the problem, opportunity or priority you are addressing with the request?

This request seeks funding to support the work authorized in House Bill 1561 in 2018 [Revised Code of Washington (RCW) [28A.300.803](#)]. Due to an inadvertent error, funding to support the work was not included in the 2018 Supplemental Operating Budget. Funding will provide grants to school districts to develop OER instructional materials and to provide staffing at OSPI to administer the program.

What is your proposed solution?

\$250,000 per fiscal year is sufficient to support the grants to school districts to develop OER materials and the 1.1 FTE staff at OSPI who currently administer the OER program.

What are you purchasing and how does it solve the problem?

The funding in this request will ensure continuity of services to school districts that use the OER instructional materials and those that develop new instructional materials. The funding will also support 1.0 FTE program manager and 0.1 FTE program specialist who administer the OER program by identifying and developing the library of OER instructional materials, making grant awards to districts to develop OER materials, and providing training opportunities for educators.

What alternatives did you explore and why was this option chosen?

This request seeks funding for an existing program that was originally set to expire in June 2018. Legislators repealed the expiration date in House Bill 1561 (2018), making the program permanent. Funding to support grants to school districts and staff at OSPI is critical to continuing the work of the program.

Assumptions and calculations

Expansion or alteration of a current program or service

The request will provide ongoing support for an existing program. The program will not be expanded or altered.

Detailed assumptions and calculations

The funding in this request will provide staffing at OSPI to support the OER program. In 2017–18, the OER program provided grants to 85 school districts serving more than 6,000 students and 200 teachers. More than 1,000 teachers, librarians, administrators, and school board members attended meetings and trainings.

Recently, OER released middle school math and K–5 English language arts curricula that have received the highest ratings of any instructional material on EdReports, a non-profit curricula review organization. This program has received national recognition by the Council of Chief State School Officers, the State Education Technology Directors' Association, and the United States Department of Education.

Workforce assumptions

The funding in this request will support 1.0 FTE program manager and 0.1 FTE program specialist at an annual cost of \$187,000 for salary, benefits, goods and services, and travel. An additional \$63,000 will support grants to school districts. See detail in fiscal table above.

Strategic and performance outcomes

Strategic framework

This request supports the Results Washington K–12 goals related to student success by providing quality instructional materials at no cost to school districts. Educators benefit from training that builds capacity to adopt and implement OER instructional materials.

Performance outcomes

This funding request will provide continuity of service for a program that was established in the 2012–13 school year. The program allows districts to shift funds from content acquisition to other critical areas that support learning and teaching. The program also promotes equitable access to high-quality instructional materials for all students.

Other collateral connections

Intergovernmental

School districts, tribal compact schools, and charter schools will have access to high-quality instructional materials aligned to our state's K–12 learning standards to support their delivery of instruction to students statewide. This is especially important for school districts that do not have the capacity to develop their own instructional materials.

Stakeholder response

Though commercial publishers are not OSPI stakeholders, increasing school district interest in OER is an area of concern for commercial publishers across the country. Lobbyists for some commercial publishers expressed opposition to the initial passing of the K–12 OER bill in 2012 (House Bill 2337); however, House Bill 1561 (2018) experienced no opposition from publisher organizations. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction’s OER project team continues to educate school districts that use of OER does not preclude the use of commercial content. Instead, open resources are one option in an increasingly varied ecosystem of instructional materials.

Legal or administrative mandates

Not applicable.

Changes from current law

This bill removed the expiration date of the OER program so the program is now a permanent provision in statute (RCW [28A.300.803](#)).

State workforce impacts

Not applicable.

State facilities impacts

Not applicable.

Puget Sound recovery

Not applicable to OSPI.

Other supporting materials

Letter of intent from legislators (see attached)

Information technology (IT)

Information Technology

Does this DP include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

☒ No

☐ Yes

Please download the [IT-addendum](#) and follow the directions on the bottom of the addendum to meet requirements for OCIO review. After completing the IT addendum, please upload the document to continue.