



Open Educational Resources Project – Washington Success Stories

Open Educational Resources (OER) are learning resources that can be freely used, adapted, and shared.

Since legislation passed in 2012 ([RCW 28A.300.803](#)), the K–12 OER Project has advocated for OER as an important part of the instructional materials ecosystem. Washington is receiving considerable recognition nationally for this leadership -- from the Council of Chief State School Officers, the State Educational Technology Directors’ Association, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Why OER?

- Provide equity of access to strong content material
- Empower teachers to update content and personalize learning
- Promote professional learning through collaborative materials adaptation and development
- Shift costs from content to other areas to support learning and teaching.
- Leverage technology

OER Summits, presentations, and trainings have reached educators in over half of Washington’s school districts. Twenty-three district collaborations have received small, competitive grants for adapting, developing, or implementing openly licensed resources. To date, the state has invested \$1.25 million to support OER. Four districts alone can account for nearly \$1 million in cost savings, making OER an excellent return on investment.

Teachers Directly Impacted	Students Directly Impacted	Cost Savings <i>reported by 5 grant districts</i>
1,857	69,176	\$ 1,074,000

Teachers and students directly impacted by 23 OER Project grants

Below are some highlights from districts implementing full-course OER.

PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT

OER Project Grantee 2017–2018



District panelists from Tumwater, Eatonville, and Puyallup at OER Summit.

While the financial savings have been significant, the money saved was utilized in the OER development process to provide genuine teacher collaboration around instruction which ultimately improves student outcomes.

I think that Open Educational Resources are key to having equity for all our districts.

Tracy Pitzer
Director of Instructional Leadership, Curriculum and Materials
Puyallup School District

Resources:

- [High School Civics](#)
- [AP Human Geography](#)
- Spanish I-IV (in development)
- [Puyallup School District Group on OER Commons](#)
- [Washington Hub](#)

Approximate savings to district: \$755,590



TUMWATER SCHOOL DISTRICT

OER Project Grantee 2016–2017



FEATURE

Administrators consider teachers' professional learning needs in using digital, OER resources

[Education Dive, September 2017](#)

Resources:

High School: [Mathematics Vision Project](#)

Middle School (piloting now): [Open Up Resources Math by Illustrative Mathematics](#)

Tumwater School District has implemented core OER math instructional materials for middle and high school students.

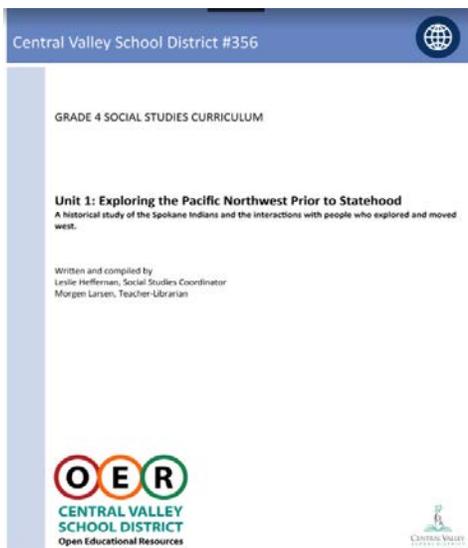
With the funds the district normally would have spent on textbooks, officials are giving teachers release time from class and paying them for extra hours so they can observe and learn from each other.

David Parascand
Math TOSA
Tumwater School District

Approximate savings to district: \$68,000

CENTRAL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

OER Project Grantee 2016–2017, 2017–2018



This project utilizes the openly-licensed Since Time Immemorial (STI) curriculum to create engaging learning opportunities. Created materials are available to all districts for adaptation to their own region.

Teachers and students now know more about local Washington State history than they had before because we were able to dive into resources at a local level. We've also developed a relationship with the Spokane Tribe, which has been a HUGE benefit to our district teachers and students.

Leslie Heffernan
Social Studies Coordinator
Central Valley School District

Approximate savings to district: \$106,000

Resources:

[Central Valley School District Group on OER Commons Washington Hub](#)

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT 112

OER Project Grantee 2016–2017, 2017–2018



Development and adaptation of OER acts as a model for district administrators to consider before rushing into purchasing published materials that may not uphold the NGSS standards. One unit was co-developed with a STEM school in South Florida.

As project director, I was able to connect groups of teachers here in Washington with the teachers at Jamerson to share the development of the unit...

Vickei Hrdina
STEM Director

Resources:

[STEM Materials Collaborative website](#)

[Group on OER Commons Washington Hub](#)

OAK HARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OER Project Grantee 2017–2018

Since chemistry and physics are not classes traditionally taken by the general population, Oak Harbor is using openly-licensed instructional materials and NGSS frameworks to develop a course that's targeted to a general audience.

Sinking our money into collaboration, planning and adapting means that we empower, engage, and excite our own people thereby increasing investment and efforts at responding to student need.

Peter Szalai
Director of Teaching and Learning
Oak Harbor Public Schools

EVERGREEN AND VANCOUVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Washington's OER Project played a pivotal role in the formation of the K–12 OER Collaborative, a group of 12 states with the goal of creating comprehensive, high quality, standards-aligned OER supporting K–12 mathematics and English language arts. [Open Up Resources](#) is the non-profit that evolved from this collaboration.

Their first offering, middle-school math, written by Illustrative Mathematics is now available for district adoption consideration. Both Vancouver and Evergreen Public Schools were beta-release pilot districts that provided invaluable feedback in the development of this resource.

We adopted the Illustrative Mathematics curriculum district-wide because we saw huge increases in student engagement with the materials. Students were constantly talking about math, using precise language, and constructing mathematically sound arguments. The curriculum facilitates productive struggle for our learners, and teachers have been excited to shift their instruction from being the 'sage on the stage' to the 'guide on the side.'

Corrine Williams
Mathematics Specialist
Evergreen Public Schools

Resources: [Open Up Resources Math by Illustrative Mathematics](#)
[Open Up Resources Webinar from Pilot Districts](#)
[Open Up Resources/Illustrative Math Review on EdReports](#)