



# Open Educational Resources Project

## What are Open Educational Resources?

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching and learning materials (such as textbooks) that exist in the public domain or have been released under an open license. This means that those resources can be used free of charge and distributed widely.

## Why are they important?

OER will help create a more efficient way for teachers to get classroom materials:

- OER are free.
- OER are often more up-to-date than textbooks.
- OER can be updated and modified without asking the content creator for permission.
- OER exist in digital format. Many districts are looking to shift to a one-to-one computing environment, in which every student has a tablet, laptop or other device.

## What will the OER Project do?

The OER Project is creating a collection of openly licensed courseware and engaging in an awareness campaign to inform school districts about these resources. The Project is legislatively mandated by Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2337.

The Project has developed a review process that acts as a model for districts considering the adoption of full-course OER. The initial evaluation, facilitated by OSPI, examined Common Core alignment of open resources in Algebra 1 and American Literature. The results of the review are located on the OER Project website and are a resource for schools and classrooms. OSPI will not require their use, and OSPI will not create new OER content.

## How would a school use OER?

OER may be used as entire courses, full units, lesson-plan components or supplemental material.

Teachers also might be able to:

- Download and print a textbook.
- Display video and audio lectures.
- Build and share lesson plans.
- Access free books in the public domain.
- Experience interactive simulations.
- Explore game-based learning programs.
- Gather and assemble resources like photos, sounds and diagrams.

## How do OER relate to the Common Core?

As part of this project, OSPI is reviewing OER for their quality and connection to Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. As the Common Core is implemented, schools will need new teaching materials. OER may help fill that need.

### For more information



**Digital Learning,  
Open Educational Resources**  
[bit.ly/Td3Lvo](http://bit.ly/Td3Lvo)

**ESSHB 2337** [1.usa.gov/YkKm0p](http://1.usa.gov/YkKm0p)

**Common Core State Standards - Washington**  
[bit.ly/111ij5F](http://bit.ly/111ij5F)

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is the primary agency charged with overseeing K–12 education in Washington state. Led by State School Superintendent **Randy Dorn**, OSPI works with the state's 295 school districts to administer basic education programs and implement education reform on behalf of more than one million public school students. [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)

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