

Language Access for LEP Parents AI

Agency: 350 Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Budget Period: 2015-17

Recommendation Summary Text:

The Superintendent requests \$201,000 to translate essential information about educational services into the major languages spoken by Washington families. This includes translating the materials developed under a 2015–17 budget proviso, in which OSPI is required to develop materials for families regarding their rights to language assistance services. OSPI currently receives no funding to translate education information for families—including translation of the materials developed under this proviso.

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures		FY 2016	FY 2017	Total
General Fund	001-01	\$0	\$201,000	\$201,000
Total Cost		\$0	\$201,000	\$201,000

Staffing	FY 2016	FY 2017	Annual Avg.
Total FTEs Requested	0	0	0

Package Description

Background

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 18.5% of Washington residents speak a language other than English at home.¹ More than 10% of all Washington students—111,325 in total—are limited-English proficient, speaking more than 200 different languages at home.²

To provide meaningful access to all education programs and services, OSPI must translate essential information into languages our families can understand. This includes information about graduation requirements, special education, complaint procedures, assessment information, educational programs, and legal protections.

Translation services are critical for limited-English proficient families to make well-informed decisions about their children’s education. Not only is this necessary to provide equal access to critical educational services, it is required under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. However, OSPI currently receives no funding for translation services.

¹ Washington Quick Facts, U.S. Census Bureau, available at: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53000.html>.

² See Washington State Report Card, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, available at: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>

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Furthermore, as required by a 2015–17 budget proviso, OSPI’s Equity and Civil Rights Office—without additional funding—must develop materials for school districts to disseminate to parents regarding their rights to language assistance services.³ While these new materials are designed for limited-English proficient parents, there is no budget to pay for translation of these materials. Nor does OSPI receive adequate funding for translation of existing education resources.

Current Situation

OSPI currently receives no funding for translation services. Without additional funds, OSPI does not have the resources necessary to translate all essential education information into the most common languages spoken by Washington families without diverting resources from other essential services.

Without adequate resources for OSPI to translate information into languages that Washington families can understand, families may not have an equal opportunity to access critical information about their children’s education and OSPI programs and services. Not only does this impact the educational opportunities of limited-English proficient students, failure to provide adequate language access services could violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Proposed Solution

The Superintendent requests funding to translate materials—including those developed under the recent budget proviso—into the major languages spoken by Washington families.

Contact person

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Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

OSPI expects the following intermediate outcomes as a result of this package:

- Increased awareness among limited-English proficient customers of critical education information
- Increase in cost-effectiveness, efficiency, and accuracy of translations by streamlining the process across the agency
- Fewer barriers to essential information about education programs and services, which leads to families receiving the educational services they need
- Agency compliance with civil rights laws
- Increase in family involvement in their children’s education, which leads to greater student achievement and lower dropout rates
- Enhancing a culture of customer service at OSPI that is responsive to community needs

³ ESSB 6052, Sec. 501(5).

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Performance Measure Detail

OSPI's Performance Indicators will be used to gauge success, specifically in the reduction of disparities/opportunity gaps for English Language Learners in all OSPI Performance Indicators.

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

This package will improve OSPI's services by removing limited-English proficiency as a barrier to accessing essential educational information, programs, and services. This supports long-term outcomes for students, reduces opportunity gaps, and increases family involvement in their children's education. By reducing opportunity gaps, this package is critical for all OSPI Performance Indicators.

Reason for change:

Does this decision package provide essential support to one of the Governor's priorities?

This decision package supports Gov. Inslee's goal to create a world-class education by increasing the percentage of students who graduate and by reducing opportunity gaps for all students.

Does this decision package provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities? If so, describe.

This decision package supports the Results Washington priorities to increase the percentage of students who graduate and reduce opportunity gaps for all students.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

This package is essential for the agency's civil rights compliance. Many key stakeholders would likely support OSPI providing more equitable access and outreach, including the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC), the Commission on African American Affairs, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, OneAmerica, the Equity in Education Coalition, the Washington State Coalition for Language Access, and the Office of the Education Ombuds.

OSPI is required by law to translate vital documents for limited-English proficient families.⁴ If this package is not funded, OSPI must reassign current resources to translate these materials.

⁴ Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Chapter 49.60 RCW.

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Impact on Other State Programs

What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

Without additional funds, OSPI simply does not have the resources necessary to translate all vital documents into the most common languages spoken by families in Washington without diverting resources from other essential services. If OSPI fails to provide adequate language assistance services, it could violate civil rights laws and deny equal access to critical educational services and benefits.

What are the consequences of not adopting this package?

Without adequate funding to provide essential language access services, the agency might not be able to effectively carry out its responsibilities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This could:

1. Jeopardize federal funding to the agency, as compliance with Title VI is required to receive any federal financial assistance;
2. Increase the agency's exposure to complaints and litigation alleging discrimination based on national origin;
3. Negatively impact parents' and students' access to critical information and educational services and benefits;
4. Increase the burden on students and families who are limited-English proficient; and
5. Sustain the opportunity gap in academic achievement for students with limited-English proficiency.

What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?

None.

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

None.

Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions:

Revenue Calculations and Assumptions: N/A

Expenditure Calculations and Assumptions:

It costs approximately \$0.26 per word for translations, depending on the language, service provider, and timeframe.⁵ Assuming an average of 250 words per page, it costs approximately \$65 to translate one page into another language (250 words x \$0.26 = \$65).

One-Time Translation of Proviso Materials: \$23,000 (one-time for FY2017)

Assuming the committee produces approximately fifteen pages of materials, it would cost approximately \$23,000 to translate these materials into the most common 21 languages

⁵ See DES Translation Services Contract #04312.

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spoken by Washington families. Because these materials are designed specifically for limited-English proficient families, it is critical that they be translated into all major languages spoken by Washington families.

\$65 per page x 15 pages x 21 languages = \$20,475, plus \$2,525 for indirect.

Total: \$23,000

Translation of Other Vital Documents: \$178,000/year (this is an ongoing cost)

Eleven OSPI departments regularly produce vital documents that require translation.⁶ We assume that an average of 25 pages per department will need to be translated each year. To translate these documents into nine languages, it would cost approximately \$179,000 per year.

\$65 per page x 25 pages x 9 languages x 11 departments = \$160,875, plus \$17,125 for indirect.

Total: \$178,000.

Object Detail

		FY 2016	FY 2017	Total
A	Salary and Wages	\$0	\$0	\$0
B	Employee Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0
C	Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0
E	Goods/Services	\$0	\$201,000	\$201,000
G	Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
J	Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0
N	Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Interagency Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Objects		\$0	\$201,000	\$201,000

Expenditures & FTEs by Program

Activity Inventory Item	Prog	Staffing			Operating Expenditures		
		FY 2016	FY 2017	Avg	FY 2016	FY 2017	Total
A019 Other Education Grants and Programs	010	0	0	0	\$0	\$201,000	\$201,000
Total Activities					\$0	\$201,000	\$201,000

⁶ Assessment and Student Information, Career and College Readiness, Child Nutrition, Communications and Community Outreach, Executive Office, Equity and Civil Rights, Secondary Education, Special Programs and Federal Accountability, Special Education, Student Support, and Teaching and Learning.

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Six-Year Expenditure Estimates

Fund	15-17 Total	17-19 Total	19-21 Total
001-010	\$201,000	\$356,000	\$356,000
Expenditure Total	\$201,000	\$356,000	\$356,000
FTEs	0	0	0

Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?

The translation of the parent materials developed under the Equity and Civil Rights budget proviso will be a one-time cost of \$23,000.

Translation costs of \$178,000 for other vital documents will be ongoing and will extend to future biennia. However, the annual costs for translations will likely decrease over time as the agency's translation process is streamlined.