

A National Look at Open Educational Resources

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Overview

- What is OER?
- Initiatives
 - U.S. Department of Education
 - K-12 OER Collaborative
 - Utah
 - Washington
 - Texas
- Some final thoughts

What is OER?

- UNESCO: Open Educational Resources (OERs) are any type of educational materials that are in the public domain or introduced with an **open license**. The nature of these materials means that anyone can **legally and freely copy, use, adapt and re-share them**.
- CCSSO survey
 - 36 states want to learn more about curating an OER repository
 - 20 states are currently planning OER initiatives
 - 18 states are sharing OER learning materials
 - 26 states are using or promoting OER

GoOpen

- Proposed rules: any IP developed with grant funds from the Department must be openly licensed
- District pledge to replace 1 textbook with OER
- Private and public sector support
- Ongoing professional development

K-12 OER Collaborative

- State driven effort to create full-course OER
- 10 states and multiple organizations
- First step is grade 6 math
- Second step is 6-8 math and K-12 scope and sequence blueprint

Utah

- Creating free and openly licensed textbooks
- Developed by teachers
- Maintained by teachers, content experts and university faculty
- Substantial cost savings

Washington

- Developing a “library” of high-quality, openly licensed K-12 educational courseware
- Statewide awareness campaign
- Ongoing professional development
- Small grant program

Texas

- A bit of Utah and a bit of Washington
- HB 2428 in 2009 yielded Section 31.071 of TEC
- Rider 70 from 2015
 - \$5m each year to issue an RFP for state-developed open-source instructional materials under TEC 31.071
 - Prioritize advanced secondary courses in STEM
 - RFP to be posted “soon”

Final thoughts

- Investigate alternative business models that allow for atomization of the creation, acquisition, distribution and usage of instructional materials
- Take further advantage of Project Share to foster collaboration among teachers for professional learning and content creation and distribution
- Create incentives for publishers for full consistency with LRMI
- Provide robust broadband to every school