A National Look at Open Educational Resources

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Overview

• What is OER?
• Initiatives
  o U.S. Department of Education
  o K-12 OER Collaborative
  o Utah
  o Washington
  o 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