

FACT SHEET:

Enabling Innovation and Teacher Creativity through Open Licensed Educational Resources

Today the Department of Education challenged states and school districts to begin replacing traditional textbooks with open licensed educational materials. The President's ConnectED Initiative has provided millions of students and teachers access to next-generation broadband in their classrooms and libraries. Increased connectivity enables schools to transition from traditional textbooks to open licensed educational resources, which have significant benefits for transforming our educational system.

Open licensed educational materials increase equity. Because open licensed resources can be distributed freely to anyone, students are no longer limited by their school budgets or procurement practices to have access to great learning materials.

School districts in the United States spend billions of dollars each year on textbooks. Switching to educational materials that are openly licensed enables schools to repurpose funding spent on static textbooks for other pressing needs, such as investing in the transition to digital learning. In some districts replacing just one textbook has made tens of thousands of dollars available for other purposes.

Traditional textbooks are perpetually outdated, forcing districts to continually invest significant portions of their budgets on replacing them. The terms of use of openly licensed educational resources allow educators to maintain the quality and relevance of their materials through continuous updates.

Openly licensed educational resources empower teachers as creative professionals by giving them the ability to adapt and customize learning materials to meet the needs of their students without breaking copyright laws.

Today we are announcing major commitments to significantly expand and accelerate the creation, curation, use, and sharing of openly licensed educational resources in our schools:

Commitments from the Department of Education

Department of Education Proposes Open License Requirement

Today the Department of Education is announcing a proposed regulatory change requiring grantees who receive funding through competitive discretionary grant programs to openly license all copyrightable intellectual property created with Department funds. This open license will allow the public to access and use the intellectual property for any purpose, provided that the user gives attribution to the creator of that work. The Department believes that the resources created by grantees should be shared as widely as

possible to benefit our diverse stakeholders and the general public. Members of the public can submit comments for thirty days at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Education's Open Education Advisor Supports K-12 Districts

Today, the Department of Education's first Open Education Advisor, Andrew Marcinek, will begin working with school district leaders, tool providers, nonprofits, and open education coalition members to expand awareness of openly licensed educational resources in PreK-12. Andrew will support the work of #GoOpen Districts to accelerate the adoption of openly licensed educational resources as they work at the district level to implement new policies and approaches to accomplishing this work.

Enhancing Learning Registry

Today the Department of Education released significant upgrades to the Learning Registry, which provides the cloud-based infrastructure needed to efficiently discover and share openly licensed educational resources across school districts and state boundaries. The upgrades improve the quality of the metadata making it easier for tools and apps to access the collections of openly licensed educational resources and content creators to submit metadata to the registry.

District Commitments

First cohort of Future Ready districts commit to #GoOpen

Today we are recognizing a cohort of 10 Future Ready districts that have taken up the #GoOpen challenge to replace at least one textbook with openly licensed educational resources within twelve months. These districts are just beginning the transition process, and will work closely with tool providers and mentor districts to build capacity to sustainably implement openly licensed educational resources in their districts. We anticipate many more districts taking up the #GoOpen challenge in coming months.

The 10 cohort Future Ready districts include:

- Affton School District, Saint Louis, MO
- Colonial Public Schools, New Castle, DE
- Oxnard Union High School District, Oxnard, CA
- Department of Defense Education Activity
- Grossmont Union High School District, La Mesa, CA
- Kettle Moraine School District, Wales, WI
- Lawrence Public Schools, Lawrence, KS
- Mentor School District, Mentor, OH
- Mountain Empire Unified School District, Pine Valley, CA
- Vista Unified School District, Vista, CA

#GoOpen Ambassador Districts to serve as mentors to other school districts transitioning to openly licensed learning materials

Today we are announcing the founding members of a network of #GoOpen Ambassador Districts to support other districts that have made the commitment to transition to openly licensed educational materials. These #GoOpen Ambassador Districts currently use openly licensed educational materials and will help other Future Ready districts understand how to effectively discover and curate these resources.

The #GoOpen Ambassador districts are:

- Bethel School District, Spanaway, WA
- Bristol Tennessee Schools, Bristol, TN
- Chesterfield County Public Schools, Chesterfield, VA
- Columbus Municipal School District, Columbus, MS
- Upper Perkiomen School District, Pennsburg, PA
- Williamsfield Community School District, Williamsfield, IL

Corporate Commitments

Amazon to provide support for Learning Registry and collaborate with education partners to support openly licensed educational resources

Today, Amazon announced it will provide infrastructure and developer support for the Department of Education's Learning Registry, which runs on AWS cloud, for two years, ensuring that it remains robust and freely available for all schools in our country so every child can benefit from open resources and allow teachers to focus their time and efforts more fully on teaching. In addition, Amazon is collaborating with education partners to leverage their technology and expertise in content discovery and distribution to support open education resources initiatives and the Learning Registry.

Edmodo to provide a new search platform for openly licensed educational resources

Today Edmodo, a platform for teacher and student collaboration, announced an upgrade to Edmodo Spotlight to enable searching, curating, and sharing openly licensed educational resources from the Learning Registry. Edmodo will also provide professional learning resources for Future Ready districts to curate, organize and share openly licensed educational resources in Edmodo Spotlight.

Microsoft to provide LTI App and a redesign of docs.com for educators

Microsoft is committed to index content from the Learning Registry by creating a new app so educators can search and access openly licensed educational resources through LTI compliant learning management and publisher systems. In addition, Microsoft announced enhanced features to Docs.com, Sway and OneNote Class Notebook to enable educators to create, discover, rate, and share openly licensed educational resources. The products are fully integrated with Microsoft Office and will enable tailored curation of resource collections, and encourage reuse by supporting open licenses and metadata sharing.

Non-profit Commitments

Creative Commons to provide Superintendent Workshops on Using Openly Licensed Educational Resources

Today, Creative Commons, the global leader in open licensing to enable use and reuse of content, announced they will lead workshops across the country with thousands of district leaders to help them scale the use of openly licensed educational resources with the goal to replace old, expensive textbooks in their districts with new, up-to-date, openly licensed educational resources. Creative Commons will provide the hands-on help that districts need to propel them to a new model of empowering their teachers to create, share, customize, and improve openly licensed educational resources.

ASCD to Provide Support to Districts on Using Openly Licensed Educational Resources

ASCD, a global community dedicated to excellence in learning, teaching, and leading, announced they will provide ongoing professional development resources and webinars for Future Ready school districts committing to help train educators on the use of openly licensed educational resources. ASCD will work with district leaders to support districts pledging to replace one textbook with openly licensed educational resources by next fall.

Illinois Shared Learning Environment redesigned for Enhanced Educator Use of Openly Licensed Educational Resources

Today the Illinois Shared Learning Environment released a redesigned version of their IOER platform that makes it easier than ever for teachers and school leaders to find high-quality open educational resources by learning standards. Additionally, IOER developer code is available as open source for other states interested in implementing a similar functionality.

Future Action

As a follow up to today's announcements, with the generous support of Amazon, the U.S. Department of Education will host a convening to be held in the San Francisco area in February to showcase the collaboration between the tool providers announced today, the first cohort of Future Ready districts committed to #GoOpen, and the #GoOpen Ambassador Districts. At the convening, we will mark the progress of the districts' efforts, develop guidance for other districts to follow, share successful strategies, and invite other tool providers and districts to commit to #GoOpen.

For additional information visit <http://tech.ed.gov/open>