

Higher education

Open Educational Resources

The 2018 Washington State Legislature directed WSIPP to conduct a study on the cost of textbooks and course materials and the use of open educational resources at four-year institutions of higher education across the state. The study will address the types of required textbooks and other materials (including digital access codes and bundled items) and their average cost per student. WSIPP was directed to consider these materials and their costs as well as the use of open educational resources at each four-year institution and in specific degree programs or courses. The study will also include relevant information on best practices in the development and dissemination of open educational resources, to the extent possible.

The report is due to the legislature by December 1, 2019.

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Higher Education Funding Models

The 2018 Washington State Legislature directed WSIPP to review higher education funding models in ten states with higher education systems that are similar to Washington State. The review must include the method used to determine state funding levels for institutions of higher education; the proportion of state funding that comes from the state general fund (or equivalent accounts) for salary and benefit increases at institutions of higher education; the manner in which salary and benefit increases are determined at or on behalf of employees at institutions of higher education; and the total proportion of state funding that comes from the state general fund or that state's equivalent accounts for institutions of higher education.

The original deadline was November 1, 2018, however, WSIPP's Board of Directors approved an extension. The final report will be delivered to the legislature by June 30, 2019.

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