



OERCOLORADO

Open Educational Resources



How can I use OER? Review the scenarios below to see how Open Educational Resources can be useful in your PK-12 educational practice.



Blended and Online Learning Solutions

A district offers a fully online, blended learning or synchronous online school that provides additional learning modalities to address credit recovery, learning loss, illness or to accommodate students who prefer remote learning. OERColorado's digital curriculum libraries have a wealth of free easily accessible curriculum for a variety of subject areas from single lessons to full courses that will easily import into Google Classroom, or another Learning Management System (LMS) using LTI technology.

Individualized Instruction for Students with 504 plans, IEPs or ALPs and More!

An exceptional education teacher searches and saves OER lessons that match the classroom teacher's current unit of study. The teacher revises the OER material to adapt it to the individual needs of several students in the classroom with IEPs and 504 plans to meet their accommodations. This allows the exceptional education students to study the same content as the rest of the class, but in a way that is best adapted to their individual needs. OERColorado also has a resources for graphic organizers, time management tools, rubrics and templates that can fit with existing curriculum. The OERColorado library also has content for Gifted Students on advanced learning plans.



Collaboration with Career Technical Education

An industry group wants to collaborate on an open curriculum with interested CTE teachers and community college faculty. The resulting curriculum will be offered as a series of full courses that can be loaded into Google classroom or other LMS systems to provide ready made CEPA/dual enrollment curriculum that is standardized across institutions. Students completing this series will receive a certificate. The OERColorado Hub provides collaborative group work space where industry partners not in education can team up and collaborate with educators on shared curriculum. The OERColorado digital library maintains collections of ready made CTE curriculum as well.

Statewide by Subject Area

After the state standards are revised a statewide subject area group is formed on the OERColorado Hub or Microsite. The group's goal is to include multiple stakeholders in identifying core and supplementary openly licensed subject area resources that can be used in classrooms that meet the new state standards. Resources that are close to meeting the standards are adapted and revised. Custom resources are also created and shared for use using the OERColorado Open Author content creation tool.



District-wide Initiative

A school district is renewing its high school accreditation. As part of the process the teacher committee plans to launch a problem-solving initiative. Teachers involved in the process set up a group to search, save and customize OER related to problem solving. Teachers upload new OER with a focus on problem-solving they have created to share with each other and among the different high schools. All the teachers have access to the OERColorado group and to the finalized curriculum for the problem solving focus, but group access is limited to district personnel. The curriculum director for the district is the group admin, who also creates tutorial videos shared with the group and PD materials.



School-wide Initiative

A Colorado high school is planning to launch an special leadership program within the next two years. They want the curriculum to be tailored to their students interests and needs. They are interested in transdisciplinary materials that integrate across subject matters. On the OERColorado Microsite they set up a closed group for their high school to search and save existing OER materials. The group also allows them to repurpose resources they find and create custom materials using the OERColorado Open Author curriculum creation tool. To collaborate, they create discussion threads and use folders to save materials they have found and created. Group access and sharing is limited to teachers with a school email account who have been admitted to the group

Community/School Partnership

School social workers form a group on the OERColorado Hub with a local mental health agency to collaborate on creating and reworking existing OER resources to promote mental health and social emotional wellbeing to fill a void where traditional publisher materials either don't exist or there aren't district funds to purchase a social/emotional curriculum. The custom curriculum is offered to districts to use free of charge and can be further customized to their needs and demographics. The curriculum focuses on promoting healthy habits, reducing substance abuse and suicide prevention, among other topics.



Pre-Service Teachers Make OER to Share

A professor in a teacher education program assigns a class project for pre-service teachers to create SIOP lesson plans to demonstrate their knowledge. Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) is a research-based, instructional model that is effective for English language learners. The completed OER projects are added to a custom "Made in Colorado" SIOP Collection on the OERColorado Hub that can benefit English Language Learners across the state.

Home School Families Search and Save Curriculum Resources

A family choosing to homeschool their children creates a profile on the OERColorado Hub. They request membership to the OERColorado hub using the Welcome to OERColorado group. With their account, they can search and save openly licensed curriculum resources that fit the needs of their children's developmental age and academic level.



Retired Teachers Pass the Torch

Retired teachers go through the years of curriculum they have created, choosing lessons that inspired and engaged students. They use the Open Author tool to transform exciting and effective lessons into digital open educational resources. They know that by sharing their knowledge they are passing the torch to the next generation of teachers, making their lives a little easier and preserving institutional knowledge.

High School and College Partnerships through Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (CEPA)

High school teachers collaborate with instructors from a local community college by creating a group on the OERColorado Hub. Together they create and share a common course for a given subject that the high school teachers will teach to CEPA students to earn college credit while attending high school. The course modules are created in the Open Author tool on OERColorado. The course can be loaded into different Learning Management Systems (LMS) using LTI technology.



Colorado Preschool Initiative

The Early Childhood Education program at a local university forms a group on the OERColorado Hub to collect and create preschool curriculum based on best practices. Their group is open access to encourage preschools in the state to adopt their resources as part of the Colorado preschool initiative to provide free access to early childhood education in the state.