



What is #GoOpenVA?

The **#GoOpen** initiative is a project of the U.S. Department of Education that recognizes states, local school districts and organizations working together to share knowledge and experiences to help educators transition to using openly licensed educational resources (OER). In 2011 the U.S. Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of Defense launched a “Learning Registry” to support **#GoOpen**¹. In 2016, the management of that technology was transferred to the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)². Virginia is one of seven states that serve on the CCSSO Task Force which is overseeing the redesign, development, management, operation, use and security of a jointly supported metadata repository index for the purpose of sharing Open Education Resources among the States and School Districts participating in the Multi-State Resource Index (MSRI).

#GoOpenVA is a statewide initiative between the Virginia Department of Education and Virginia school divisions with support from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. The purpose of the program is to promote the use of openly-licensed educational resources that can empower students and educators with engaging and equitable learning opportunities in support of educational goals for Virginia’s students.

Representatives from Chesterfield (*a #GoOpen National Ambassador division*), Loudoun, Virginia Beach, Hampton, and Henry school divisions along with the Virginia

Department of Education, Higher Education institutions and WHRO are working together as part of **#GoOpenVA** to curate open education resources. Virginia teachers were selected among the representative school divisions to develop OER for Algebra I, World History I and Virginia Studies.

Why Use Open Education Resources (OER)?

Students – Students can access the most up to date information and interactive content to increase engagement and retention.

Teachers – Teachers can find and share high quality materials in a variety of mediums and feel free to adapt them to their students’ needs without fear of violating copyright laws.

Divisions – Divisions can create greater equity in education as well as provide more personalized learning to students. Potential cost-savings may also be available.

How does a division engage with #GoOpenVA?

1. Visit the **#GoOpenVA** website and review the section on Resources for Divisions
2. Attend the **#GoOpen Regional Summit August 1, 2017** at the Chesterfield County Career and Technical Center
3. Attend the **Leading Ed Forum 2017 on Oct 19-20, 2017** Daniel Technology Center, Germanna Community College, Culpeper, Virginia.

Where does a division find Virginia’s Open Education Resources?

<https://eMediaVA.org/> is the official repository for open resources that align to Virginia’s SOL.

1 <https://www.ed.gov/category/keyword/learning-registry>

2 <http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/2016/OIRASubmissionCCSSOVOELumen9.20.16.pdf>



Website: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/technology/technology_initiatives/open-edu-resources/index.shtml

Email: goopenva@doe.virginia.gov

Frequently Asked Questions OER for K-12 Educators

1. What are Open Educational Resources (OER)?

Open educational resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. OER include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge.

2. What is the difference between ‘free’ and ‘open’ resources?

Open educational resources are and always will be free in digital form, but not all free resources are OER. Free resources may be temporarily free or may be restricted from use at some time in the future (including by the addition of fees to access those resources). Moreover, free resources which may not be modified, adapted or redistributed without express permissions from the copyright holder are not OER.

3. Are all OER digital?

Like most educational resources these days, most OER are “born” digital. But like traditional resources, they can be made available to students in both digital and printed formats (including in the form of a traditional ‘textbook’). Of course, digital OER are easier to share, modify, and redistribute, but being digital is not what makes something an OER or not.

4. How do I know if an educational resource is an OER?

The key distinguishing characteristic of OER is its intellectual property license and the freedoms the license grants to others to share and adapt it. If a lesson plan or activity is not clearly tagged or marked as being in the public domain or having an open license, it is not OER. It’s that simple.

While custom copyright licenses can be developed to facilitate the development and use of OER, often it can be easier to apply free-to-use standardized licenses developed specifically for that purpose, such as those developed by Creative Commons or – for software – those approved by the Open Source Initiative.

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