

SPARC*

OER

STATE POLICY

PLAYBOOK

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Summary for IL CC OER Summit

by Denise Cote, College of DuPage

GETTING STARTED



Identify Stakeholders

Before crafting legislation, it's important to identify the stakeholders that would be impacted by OER legislation in your state. Understanding the stakeholders and their priorities in advance can help uncover opportunities and challenges.

Key stakeholders include:

- **Students:** Students are the main beneficiaries of OER. They care about reducing costs and can be powerful allies on campus and in the legislature.
- **Faculty/Teachers:** Faculty care about students and want to ensure their right to select course materials is protected.
- **Librarians:** Librarians are often the go-to OER expert on campus. They can help convene stakeholders and support faculty to find and use OER.
- **Bookstore:** The campus bookstore is typically responsible for delivering course materials to students and is an important ally on OER.
- **Disability Support Services:** Like all course materials, making OER accessible to every student is important. Engaging disability services in advance can ensure OER benefits all students.
- **Administrators:** OER programs need the support of the administration to reach the most students. Working with the college/university administration can ensure OER efforts are sustainable and impactful across all degree programs and academic units.

Define OER Carefully

A well designed and widely accepted OER definition will ensure the intent of your policy remains intact throughout the legislative process. The term "open" and open textbooks are easily confused with other policies in the education field and it is critical to define OER in every type of legislation. An educational resource is truly "open" if it is free of cost and access barriers with legal (open license) permissions for anyone to use, share and adapt it. A strong definition is important for students to have access to OER.

Also:

Support Students with Disabilities through OER

Respect Academic Freedom

WHY STATE-LEVEL OER POLICY?



Nearly half of all states have considered OER legislation in past years, and it has increasingly become a go-to strategy for legislators seeking to make college education more affordable and effective. States can catalyze and support action at institutions by providing resources, incentives, and policy frameworks.



Open Educational Resources (OER) are the solution to high college textbook prices that have increased by 88% over the last decade. OER can save students millions of dollars and make attending and completing college a reality.

Establish an OER Grant Program:

Creating an OER grant program at the state level is one of the most effective ways to accelerate OER adoption and creation on campus. OER grant programs provide financial incentives to support faculty use and development of OER, and help raise awareness of OER's advantages and availability. States that have funded new or existing OER grant programs have generated an enormous return on investment. In **Georgia**, \$2.7 million in grants saved students an estimated \$26.8 million, and in **North Dakota**, a program funded with \$110,000 saved students an estimated \$2 million. Financial incentives can accelerate faculty adoption and increase the impact of OER on students and families. This can be accomplished through a standalone bill with appropriated funds or as a line item in the state budget.

Create a Task Force or Council:

Some states have created a task force or council to lead OER work. While in some states this has already formed organically, states that are in need of stronger coordination could benefit from a formal body that brings institutions and stakeholders to the table. Creation of a task force or council can be accomplished through state appropriations, authorizing legislation, or a resolution.

Issue a Savings Challenge:

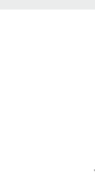
One of the biggest barriers with OER is raising awareness with institutions and faculty. While high quality OER are available across many subjects, many faculty and students remain unaware that it is an option. A strong, visible statement made by a governor, legislature, top-level administrator, or state agency can direct tremendous attention to an issue. Challenges should always be positive, and respect that faculty have a right to select the textbooks most appropriate for their courses.

Require OER to be Marked in Course Schedules:

Even at institutions with OER programs and initiatives, not all students know that OER is an option. Requiring that OER be designated in course catalogues when a student registers for classes spreads awareness of OER programs and improves transparency allowing students to be smart consumers when selecting courses.

SPARC OER State Policy Tracker

Stay up to date on OER policy in your state.

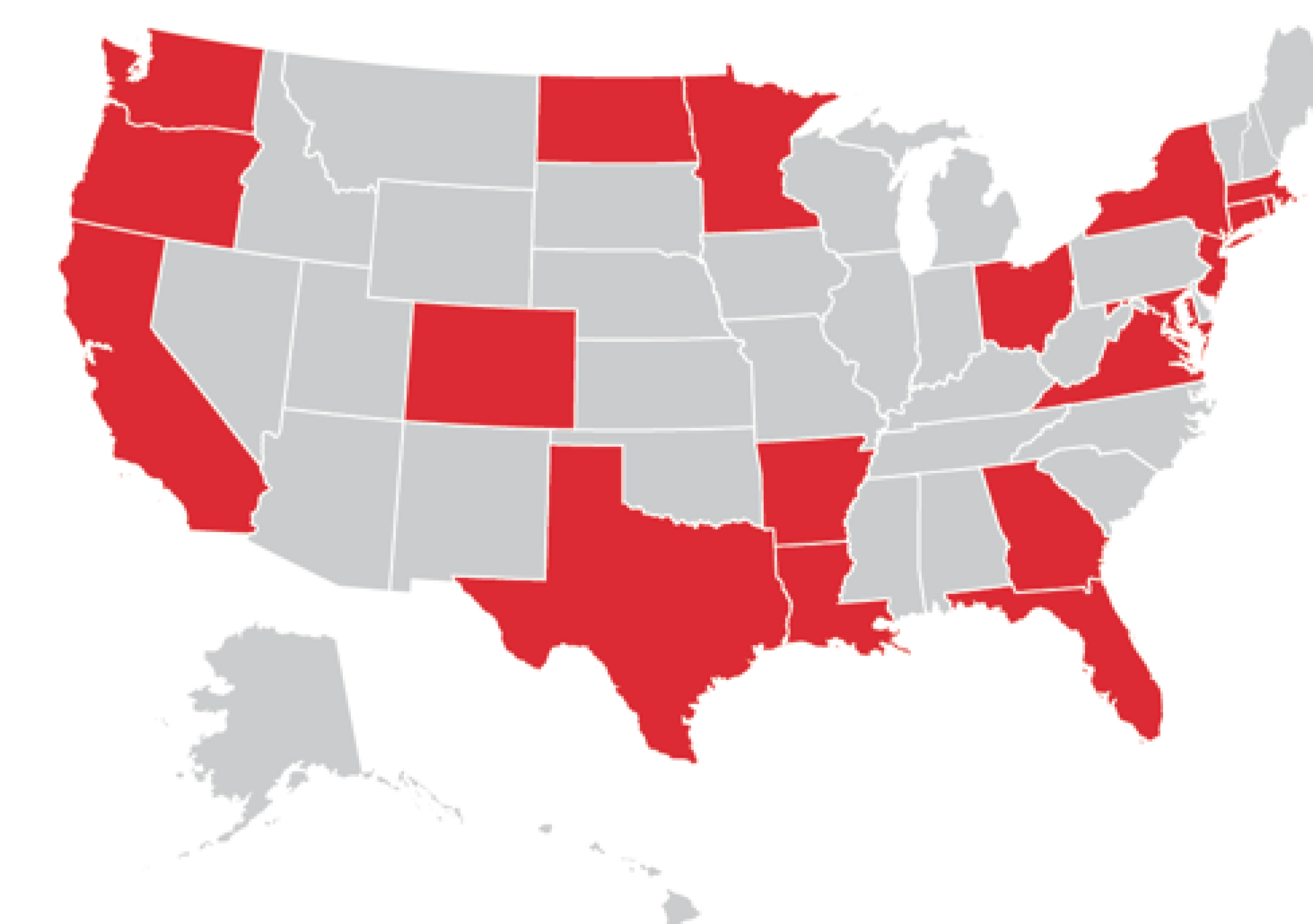


▼ Illinois

2018 Activity:

The legislature adjourned on 05/31/2018. **No relevant bills were filed.**

States with Enacted OER Legislation or State-Funded Initiatives



Read these!



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