

Open Ed in the Northeast

A Landscape Summary

Average In-State Tuition & Required Fees in New England

		Change from	Change from
	2018-19	2017-18	2013-14
Public Two-year Colleges	\$5,466	8%	21%
Public Four-year Colleges	\$12,014	5%	20%

Source: NEBHE's Report on Published Tuition and Fees at New England Public Colleges and Universities, 2018-19

Average tuition & fees for independent colleges 2018-19:

\$39,385

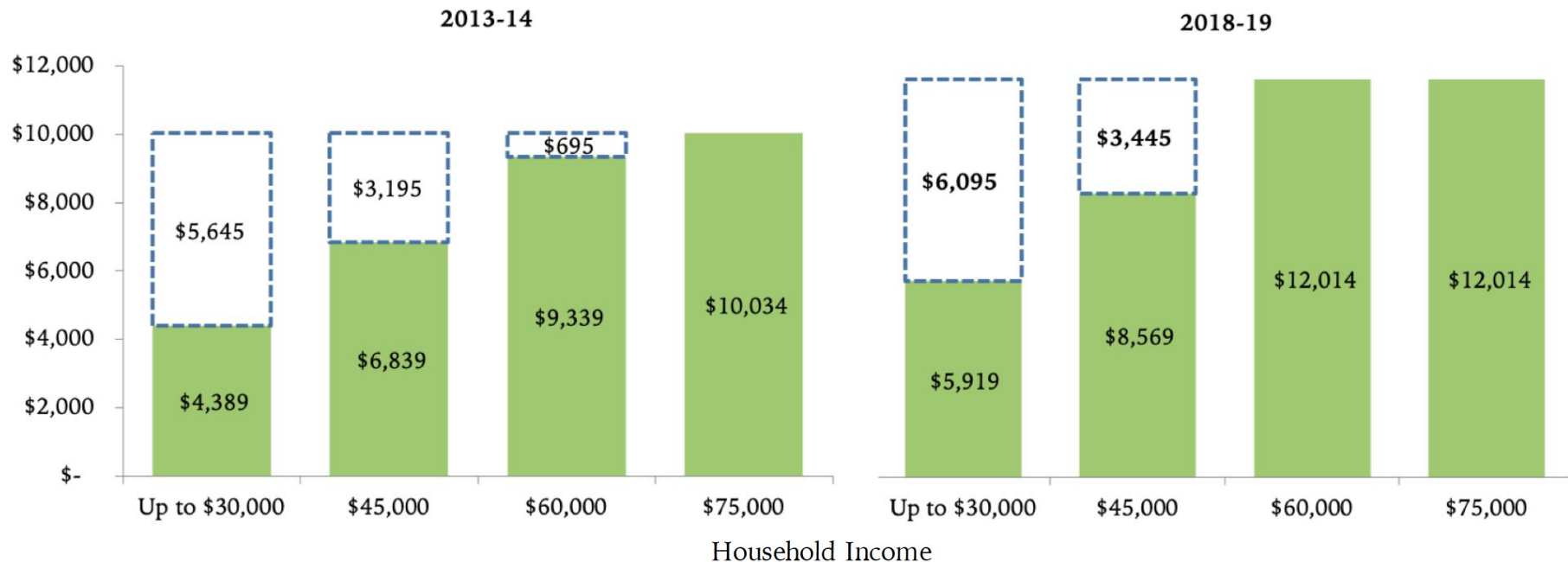
1.33% increase from 2013-14

Average net price for students awarded grant or scholarship aid, 2017-18:

\$28,757

7.74% increase from 2013-14

Tuition & Fees at Public 4-Year Institutions Across New England



Pell Grant



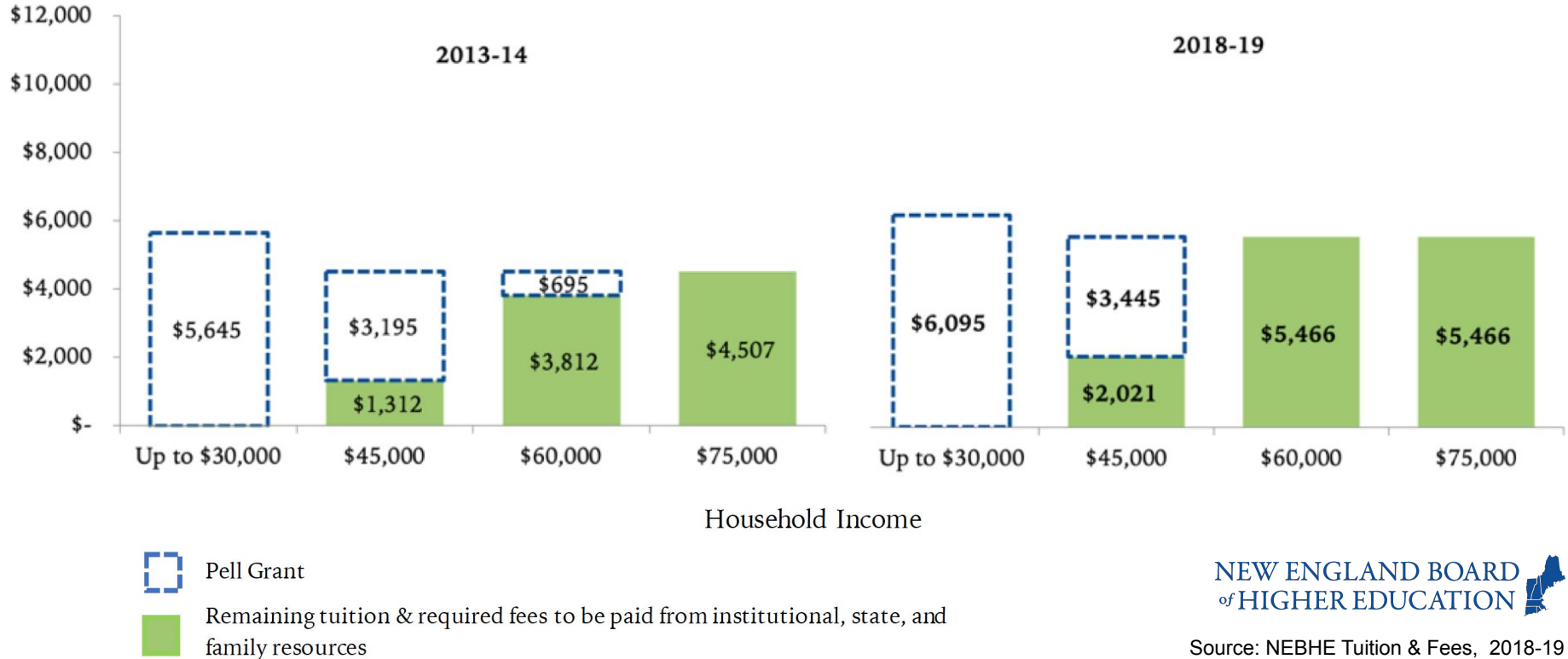
Remaining tuition & required fees to be paid from institutional, state, and family resources

NEW ENGLAND BOARD
of HIGHER EDUCATION



Source: NEBHE Tuition & Fees, 2018-19

Tuition & Fees at Public 2-Year Institutions Across New England



Increases in tuition & fees across New England since 2013-14

Community colleges, **21%**

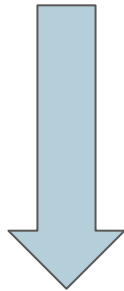
Four-year publics, **20%**

These figures have outpaced increases in the maximum Pell Grant (**7.38%**), leaving a widening gap for low- and moderate-income families to fill with additional institutional or state aid and/or family resources.



Tuition prices

Financial aid



Families are being asked to contribute more college costs than ever before.

What can we do?

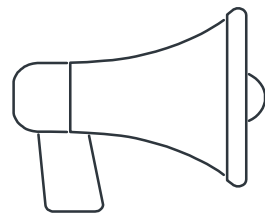
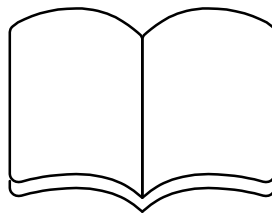
Tuition and Fees

Room and Board

Books and Supplies

Personal Expenses

Transportation



An Overview of Regional and National Efforts

OEC

Open Education Consortium (OEC)

- The Open Education Consortium (OEC) is a non-profit, global, members-based network of open education institutions and organizations. OEC represents its members and provides advocacy and leadership around advancement of open education globally.
- OEC works with its members to build capacity to find, reuse, create and share Open Educational Resources (OER), develop open policy, create sustainable open education models, and enable international collaboration and innovation.
- OEC annually coordinates and hosts **Open Education Week**, the **Open Education Global conference**, and Open Education Awards for Excellence. Collectively these efforts aim to bring high quality, inclusive education to all learners around the world.

CCCOER

Community College Consortium for Open Educational Resources (CCCOER)

- CCCOER is a growing consortium of community and technical colleges committed to expanding access to education and increasing student success through adoption of open educational policy, practices, and resources. They provide a community and resources to learn about the evolving practice of open education.
- **Mission:** to promote the adoption of open education to enhance teaching and learning at community and technical colleges.
- 12 members in the Northeast (CT, NH, MA, ME, NY, NJ)

DOERS3

Driving OER Sustainability for Student Success (DOERS3)

Leveraging the collective strength of the Collaborative, DOERS3 members build capacity to take established OER initiatives to scale and shape national and state innovation in the areas of OER research, policy, accessibility, and quality. **Over the next 12 months, this group will focus on Research, Equity, and Capacity Building.**

- DOERS3 was conceived in 2017 by the University System of Maryland (USM), City University of New York (CUNY), and State University of New York (SUNY).
- Launched in 2018, is a collaborative made up of public higher education systems and statewide/provincewide OER organizations.
- As a group, DOERS3 members believe in supporting student success through the implementation of affordable, openly-licensed alternatives to high-priced, traditionally-copyrighted, instructional materials.

#GoOpen

#GoOpen States:

- Adopt/implement a statewide technology strategy that includes the use of openly licensed resources as a central component
- Develop and maintain a statewide repository solution for openly licensed resources
- Participate in a community of practice with other #GoOpen states and districts to share learning resources and professional development resources
- Create a webpage to share the commitment to #GoOpen and document the state's progress

The [K-12 #GoOpen Initiative](#) of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology supports states, districts and educators using openly licensed educational materials to transform teaching and learning.

Four states in the Northeast participate in the initiative: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont.

#GoOpen States must meet a set of criteria including adding OER into the statewide education technology strategy.

OTN

Open Textbook Network (OTN)

In 2014 the Open Textbook Network launched out of the University of Minnesota. Its goal was to support institutions in engaging faculty with the Open Textbook Library so that faculty could potentially adopt open textbooks. The Open Textbook Network thrives today as an active community that promotes access, affordability, and student success through open education. The leadership, actions, and results of the community are transforming higher education.

- Use workshops to raise faculty awareness of open textbooks made available in their Open Textbook Library
- Offer Certificate in OER Librarianship (\$)
- Publishing Cooperative available (\$)
- Working Groups tackling issues like DEI and accessibility
- **Community of Practice** and active listserv
- 14 individual colleges/universities and 53 systems hold membership in the Northeast
- Members eligible for PressbooksEDU 30% discount

Northeast OER

Northeast OER Summit

- The Northeast OER Summit is an annual multi-state collaborative event to provide new and experienced OER advocates the opportunity to learn and share effective practices in awareness building, implementation, collaboration, strategy and research.
- The Summit, initiated in 2017, is funded almost solely by participant registration fees and is organized by an in-kind planning team comprised of experienced OER practitioners including librarians, instructional designers and faculty from New England states, extending to New York and New Jersey, and Lumen Learning.
- This year's Summit will be held at UMass Amherst from May 28-29, 2020.

Statewide Leaders in OER Group

Ad-hoc group led by Rebel Cummings-Saul

- Rebel is the Director of Digital Services and Open Education Resources (OER) at Florida Virtual Campus
- Group was born out of Rebel's frustration of being left out of certain "leadership" conversations, even though she herself was an OER leader
- Group to meet quarterly via Zoom
- First meeting identified possible goals for group as well as common barriers and challenges, and who was missing from the conversation and compiled list of leaders (Tribal Colleges, HBCUs, certain states, VT and ME included)

SPARC*

Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition

SPARC is a global coalition committed to making Open the default for research and education. SPARC empowers people to solve big problems and make new discoveries through the adoption of policies and practices that advance Open Access, Open Data, and Open Education.

- National, state, and international advocacy programs drive new and expanded Open policies and practices
- Efforts financed by member dues that support operating and program expenses as well as grant support from multiple foundations
- Provides the community with *LIBOER Discussion Group* (Listserv), *OER State Policy Tracker*, & *OER Digest* (bi-monthly)
- Offer *Open Education Leadership Program*
- Alongside US PIRG, SPARC successfully advocated for policy makers to renew and strengthen the federal **Open Textbook Pilot Grant Program**, now with \$7 million in funding for Fiscal Year 2020—a \$2 million increase over previous years.



Policy, Leadership & Highlights

Open Education Efforts in the Northeast



Consider:

- Are there key elements or conversations missing in the landscape summary?
- What elements do you wish you had/have in the initial launch of your OER/Open efforts? (This could be for your institution, state or system)
- What challenges (big or small) have you encountered? Do you anticipate future challenges?
- Are there existing efforts that we should be aware of in order to not duplicate?



Connecticut

Legislative action

Institution highlight

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) [#NoLo \(No and Low cost > \\$40\) Campaign](#) easily allows students to identify which courses offer low or no-cost course materials. CSCU is also a member of the the DOERS3.

- [HB 7424](#) was enacted in 2019 establishing the Connecticut OER Coordinating Council under the Office of Higher Education.
- The 17-member council, chaired by Kevin Corcoran, Executive Director of Digital Learning for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System was convened for the first time in mid-September 2019 with an agenda to identify high-impact courses and facilitate a competitive grant program for higher education faculty in the state to develop, convert or adopt OER.
- **State investment: \$75,000** specified for OER grants
- Connecticut is a #GoOpen State



Maine

Overview of work

Institution highlight

In 2017, Thomas College received a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation to redesign 30 courses using OER.

USM offered a summer 2019 faculty training to learn more about OER, adopt an open textbook and revise their course. Stipends were provided by the Provost and USM Libraries.

- In 2011 the Maine Department of Education provided funding for Open Education Resource (OER) research through Title IID Enhancing Education Technology ARRA competitive grants. The grants supported the work of teacher research teams in the identification of high quality online educational resources that support and enhance classroom learning. (Mostly K-12)
- While Maine has not invested much in OER since 2011, the state's grassroots efforts have been active and quickly expanding.

Massachusetts

Legislative action

Institution highlight

Springfield Technical College Community College is offering a year-long OER Fellowship for 10 faculty, with adjuncts eligible, to redevelop a single course using only OER. The program is supported with federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health and the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

- **S. 324** (2019) Establishing a special commission on digital textbooks for K-12 and public colleges
- **S 770/H 1249** (2019) establishing a special commission to review opportunities to reduce the costs of higher education by improving the utilization of digital learning technology
- **H4200** (2016) Authorize the DHE to establish guidelines and protocols to encourage and assist colleges and universities with the implementation of programs that reduce cost of textbooks and other educational materials

Massachusetts

Overview of work

Institution highlight

Bay Path University offers faculty stipends for OER and saved students \$484k in 2018-19 alone. The institution is actively evaluating how OER can play a role in its Diversity and Inclusion component of their Vision 2019 to make a Bay Path education more attainable to an economically diverse student population.

- **OER Working Group** comprised of faculty, librarians, administrators; external membership (e.g., campus bookstore, union leadership, employer representative)
 - Tasked with studying, evaluating and identifying ways that the MA Department of Higher Education can address public higher education “Big Three” goals of increasing access and affordability, closing achievement gaps, and increasing completion rates through broader utilization of OER, among others.
 - In October 2019 the OER Working Group [OER Report & Recommendations](#) and [endorsed implementation of its recommendations](#) was submitted and accepted.

Massachusetts



Institution highlight

Now in its tenth cycle, the **Open Education Initiative** at UMass Amherst has generated a total savings of over \$1.8 million for students. The libraries partner with the Institute for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development (TEFD), Instructional Innovation and Provost's Office to support these efforts.

Overview of work

- **Massachusetts Open Education: Achieving Access for All** was a collaborative project focused on building capacity for open educational resources (OER) across the state.
 - Leaders of the project include open education advocates from UMass Amherst, Worcester State University, Northern Essex Community College, and Holyoke Community College.
 - This collaboration offered direct benefits to faculty and students at the 28 public higher education institutions in the Commonwealth.
- Massachusetts is a #GoOpen State and the Mass System of Public Higher Education is an OTN and DOERS3 member.



New Hampshire

Overview of work

Institution highlight

Dartmouth College runs an [Open Education Initiative](#) for faculty, awarding mini grants from \$1,000-\$2,000 for OER adoption/revision and creation, respectively, with the goals of reducing student textbook costs and increasing student engagement in their learning materials.

- While New Hampshire has yet to pass any OER-related legislation, they are leading in many areas of the Open Ed community, particularly in Open Pedagogy (Robin DeRosa, Plymouth State)
- The University System of New Hampshire's (USNH) Open Education Initiative has been supporting forty-five faculty per year, for the last five years, as they integrate open resources and pedagogies into their courses to improve student engagement and make higher education more affordable.



New Hampshire

Overview of work

- In the 2019-20 academic year student savings from the initiative should surpass a million dollars.
- The Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) piloted an initiative in 2018 to support fifteen faculty members in converting their courses to OER. Together, USNH and CCSNH have formed the New Hampshire Open Education Public Consortium, and joined a multi-state collaborative, “Driving OER Sustainability for Student Success (DOERS3),” to partner with other state systems (such as Maryland and New York) to scale the benefits of OER from the institutional to the state-wide level.

Institution highlight

Plymouth State University’s Director of Open Learning & Teaching Collaborative, Robin DeRosa, runs the [Open Pedagogy Notebook](#) with her colleague at Kwantlen Polytechnic Institute in Vancouver, Rajiv Jhangiani.



New Jersey

Legislative action

Institution highlight

As of June 2019, Rutgers University Libraries have issued 92 *Open and Affordable Textbooks Awards* to Rutgers faculty, saving students approximately **\$3.5 million**. Both full and part-time faculty are eligible to apply for this grant program.

- **S 768** (Enacted): This bill requires institutions of higher education to develop open textbook plan. Within 180 days of the effective date of this bill, an institution of higher education, after consultation with faculty members at the institution, shall submit a plan to the Secretary of Higher Education to expand the use of open textbooks and commercial digital learning materials in order to achieve savings for students enrolled in the institution.
- As amended and reported to the Committee, this bill is identical to the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bills A 327, A1149, and A3254.
- #GoOpen Launch Districts throughout the state



New York

Legislative action

Institution highlight

As part of the *Achieving the Dream* (ATD) OER Degree Initiative, CUNY's Office of Library Services (OLS) was awarded a \$320,000 grant to create complete degree programs with no textbook costs at three of the university's community colleges—referred to as “Z-Degrees,” as in zero textbook cost.

- **S 3661/A 5914** This bill seeks to reduce the cost of textbooks and course materials for students of institutions of higher education by requiring every institution of higher education to adopt policies that allow the use of innovative pricing techniques and payment options for textbooks, supplemental materials, and other course materials or textbooks.
- **A2893** This bill requires the boards of trustees of the state university of New York and the city university of New York each to conduct and report on the availability and accessibility of alternative high-quality, lower-cost course resources in lieu of traditional textbooks. This may include open education resources, online textbooks, and other education related materials.



New York

Legislative action

Institution highlight

New York University Faculty of Arts & Science have launched an OER Affordability initiative that leverages new and existing OER to reduce or eliminate the need for paid course materials for students. In addition to savings, the program acknowledges that “... OER plays an essential role in meeting pedagogical goals, such as increasing student engagement and learning.”

- **A2961** This bill enacts the college textbook affordability act to encourage the adoption of low-cost, high-quality, open educational resources. It establishes the **New York open education resources council** and open source digital library.
- **A 4165** This bill requires institutions of higher education to publish a list of all courses offered to include the instructor, instructional materials needed or recommended, and expected number of students to be enrolled; these institutions must provide information on instructional materials to bookstores, other than those operated by the institution and provide equal access to students.



New York

Legislative action

- **State investment:** The Budget includes an \$8 million investment to provide open educational resources, including electronic-books, to students at SUNY and CUNY. At the state's direction, SUNY and CUNY will use this funding to target high-enrollment courses, including general education, to maximize student savings. **This funding was renewed in FY 2019**

Other

- CUNY and SUNY in collaboration with University System of Maryland launched the DOERS3 group
- #GoOpen Launch Districts throughout NY State

Institution highlight

Openly Available Sources Integrated Search (**OASIS**) is a search tool that aims to make the discovery of open content easier. OASIS currently searches open content from 98 different sources and contains 368,234 records. OASIS is being developed at SUNY Geneseo's Milne Library.



Rhode Island

Legislative action

Institution highlight

Roger Williams University Professor of Architecture, Robert Dermody, is the institution's first faculty member to be awarded a sabbatical focusing on Open Education. His research will investigate ways in which OER-enabled Pedagogy could be integrated into undergraduate Architecture courses.

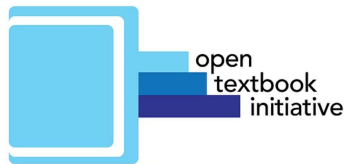
- **RI Open Textbook Initiative** (2016 - present) is a challenge set by Governor Gina Raimondo to the state's higher ed institutions to save students **\$5 million over five years** using openly licensed textbooks.
- Steering committee is comprised of a librarian rep from each of the 11 public and independent institutions and the Director, Office of Innovation
- **Investment:** Funding for OTN membership and micro-grants is available to the public institutions through the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner and the Office of Innovation
- \$3.2 million saved to date



Rhode Island

Reporting/assessment

- Tracking faculty OER adoptions
- Gather course enrollment data from Registrar after add/drop period
- Apply \$100/student/course to calculate savings
- Use Google forms/sheets to collect and Tableau for visualizations
- Close to launching Open Pedagogy tracking instrument



#RIOpenTextbooks

Other

- RI is a #GoOpen State



Vermont

Overview of work

Institution highlight

The Library Council of the Vermont State Colleges has a [Statement on Open Educational Resources](#) calling for “raising awareness of OER among faculty and administrators and for the development of campus and system strategies for supporting OER initiatives.”

- In 2016, Vermont’s Agency of Education contracted OER Commons, an OER repository, to help the state’s education community collect, disseminate and catalog OER. #VTOpen resources support PreK-12 curriculum and so far, 160 Vermont educators have contributed materials to [the Hub](#).
- Vermont is a #GoOpen State
- No legislation has been presented yet

Reflections & Questions