Office of Virtual Education

Professional Development Course Syllabus

Title: Open Educational Resources

Technology Skill Level: Intermediate to advanced

Technology Requirements: Access to a computer and internet access with DSL or higher connection. In addition, participants should be proficient with using a word processor, using email, browsing the Internet, and navigating to and uploading computer files.

Credits: 40 Renewal Credits

Course Duration: 60-day enrollment period

Location: Website This course is on a rolling enrollment schedule - this means that you may register for this course at any time. Once you have paid for the course, you will automatically be enrolled and can begin the course immediately!

Prerequisites: This course is intended for educators that have some technology knowledge and have a comfort level on the computer. This is not a course for beginners. Participants need to have regular access to a computer that has Internet access, a word processing program such as Word, and an e-mail account. In addition, participants should be proficient with using email, browsing the Internet, and navigating to computer files. Please be aware that school district filters may block some of the tools we will be exploring so participants may need to access these resources from home, the public library, or other location with Internet access.

Delivery, Enrollment, and Facilitation
This is a mastery-based course with no discussion forums. The course will be delivered in a fully online format. This course is non-facilitated, and is designed to be completed independently. It is self-paced, with an enrollment period of 60 days. A Help Forum is included in the course, that will be carefully monitored by a full-time online facilitator.

Course Description
Open Educational Resources for Teachers is a course for teachers that explores free online educational resources. There are a myriad of online educational resources available to educators today. Locating and deciding how best to use them can be difficult and time-consuming to do without the proper guidance. This course will help educators identify some of these resources, as well as to make and share plans for their use in their classrooms. There are now a multitude of technologies that allow users to find, organize, and share information as well as work together to create new information that is not limited by classroom walls. These tools can have a positive impact on education and engage our “technology native” students to think critically and creatively. Educators are responsible for teaching students these critical 21st-century skills so that they will be ready to compete in a global economy. In this course, participants will address 21st
century skills through being introduced to some open educational resources. Participants will have the opportunity to explore and plan for using these tools in their classrooms. Participants will build a lesson/unit plan incorporating these resources that can best be used in education.

Goals
This course will enable participants to:

- Understand what Open Educational Resources are. (EHHP II) (ISTE 1, 5)
- Understand the various uses of Open Educational Resources in educational settings. (EHHP II) (ISTE 1, 5)
- Plan how to use Open Educational Resources in their own classroom. (EHHP III, V) (ISTE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Learn about tools used for collaboration and creativity. (EHHP II, III) (ISTE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Explore different OER repositories. (EHHP III, V, VI) (ISTE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Explore concepts of Digital Citizenship, including copyright and Fair Use, Creative Commons, and staying safe online. (EHHP III) (ISTE 2, 3, 4)
- Understand the steps to take in order to implement OER as a model in their classroom and/or school. (EHHP II) (ISTE 1, 5)
- Learn to become an advocate for Open Educational Resources amongst their peers. (EHHP II, III) (ISTE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Evaluate OER content objects, and other OER, for credibility, reliability, quality, and alignment to standards. (EHHP II) (ISTE 1, 5)

Course Outline

Session One: An Introduction to OER (Open Educational Resources)
*The what, why, and how of it all...*
OER, Open Educational Resources, are a powerful tool in the hands of educators who know how to use them. Providing ready-made content aligned, with certain learning standards, that can be redistributed and remixed can save teachers valuable time and effort - time and effort best spent with students, parents, and other stakeholders. In this session, you will learn the basics of OER, its history, and its importance to the world of education today.

Session Two: Copyright & Digital Citizenship
*Legal provisions and ethical conduct for open standards...*
Intellectual property, even that considered to be Open Educational Resources, is governed by a set of standards and expected behaviors by those who use it. Creative Commons is an easy-to-understand set of licenses to attribute to OER content, making accessibility and availability far less complex than before. As a Digital Citizen, you must not only be aware of this set of governing standards for your own use, but also, know how to share this knowledge with students. In this session, you will learn about Creative Commons, and rules for good Digital Citizenship.
Session Three: OER: Myths & Relevancy  
*Being a good steward of OER...*

After over 15 years of accessibility to OER content objects, a number of myths perpetuate. Not only does OER democratize high-quality education, and extend reach to new communities and learners all over the world, it also allows for remixing and customization, and encourages sharing amongst those in shared communities across the globe. This is not to say that OER isn't without its challenges, but the benefits outweigh those by far. In this session, you will be exposed to many myths about OER, and learn how to choose the best content for your learners.

Session Four: Using Khan Academy in Multiple Classroom Models  
*Using video for individualized growth...*

The emergence of Khan Academy has lead educators into an interesting discussion of the concept of flipping the classroom. While Khan Academy works well for flipped classroom models, it can also work for traditional face-to-face, blended, and fully online classrooms as well. Though it is an amazing tool, it can be used inappropriately if educators aren't careful. In this session, you will learn how and why to use Khan Academy across various classroom models, as well as get started using the tool with an account of your own.

Session Five: Curriki & SAS Curriculum Pathways  
*More tools you can use...*

Curriki is a resource that provides a place for educators to share their plans and resources with one another in a collaborative environment. SAS Curriculum Pathways offers a variety of resources for educators to use in the classroom, including interactive labs for science, reading, writing and grammar skills practice, mathematics, history and social studies, as well Spanish. In this session, you will have the opportunity to explore both OER repositories, find resources that can help you in your classroom, and consider sharing some of your own favorite lessons with other educators.

Session Six: Advocating For & Creating Your Own OER  
*Making it real, today...*

Now that you have all of this great knowledge, what are you going to do with it? In this session, you will take off on your full OER journey by creating and sharing a module of your own, using all you've learned about OER, Creative Commons, and quality content. Additionally, you will learn how to become an advocate for the Open Movement, within which, OER is a large part.

Additional Resources

ISTE Standards for Teachers

PD Policies and Procedures