



September 22, 2025

Open Educational Resources: FY25 Overview

Dr. Robert Awkward, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Effectiveness



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

OER Advisory Council



Sue Tashjian, Northern Essex Community College and **Dr. Kisha Tracy**, Fitchburg State University serve as Co-Chairs

Representatives from the 29 public higher education institutions plus four student members, an external member, and several ex-officio members

Generally the OER Advisory Council met monthly from October to May.

The work of the Council was done through its five committees:

- Assessment Committee: Connie Strittmatter, Fitchburg State University, Chair
- Course Flagging Committee: Ceit DeVitto, Bunker Hill Community College, Chair
- Marketing & Education Committee: Emily Butler, Springfield Technical Community College, Chair
- Professional Development Committee: Kim Colangelo, Mt. Wachusett Community College and Andrea Milligan, North Shore Community College, Co-chairs
- Rebranding Committee: Carolyn Michaud, Mass. Maritime Academy, Chair

Course Flagging Committee



Course Marking was adopted by the Board of Higher Education in June 2021. Current status:

- **Implemented:** 13 community colleges, three state universities and UMass Lowell (17 or 61% - up from 15 in FY23).
- **In progress:** One community college, two state universities, and three UMass campuses (six or 21% - down from seven in FY23).
- **Not yet begun:** One community colleges and four state universities (five or 18% - down from six in FY23).

Marketing & Education Committee



- Open Access Week: October 21 – 27, 2024
- Open Education Week: March 3 – 7, 2025
- Third Annual OER Faculty Awards given in May 2025
 - Gold Award – Prof. J. J. Sylvia IV*, Fitchburg State University
 - Silver Award – Prof. Paul Szwed, Mass. Maritime Academy
 - Bronze Award – Prof. Amanda Simons*, Framingham State University

* Both are faculty-authors of ROTEL textbooks (J. J. has published two textbooks!)

Professional Development Committee



Faculty OER 101 Training conducted May 21, 2025. Survey results to be conducted this fall 2025.

Faculty Survey Results from past training sessions:

- **58.4% adopted OER in fall 2020 (May 2020)**
- **60.9% adopted OER in fall 2021 (May 2021)**
- **63.7% adopted OER in spring 2023 (Oct./Nov. 2022)**
- **73.8% adopted OER in fall 2024 (May 2024)**
- 71.1% said the training influenced their decision to adopt (May 2020)
- 65.7% said the training influenced their decision to adopt (May 2021)
- 68.2% said the training influenced their decision to adopt (Oct./Nov. 2022)
- 52.7% said the training influenced their decision to adopt (May 2024)

Assessment Committee



- Substantial time was spent scrubbing and analyzing the FY24 data for presentation to the OER Advisory Council, the Chief Academic Officers for the community colleges and the state universities, at the AAC&U national conference, and the Connecticut Statewide OER Conference.
- After extensive review based on the prior's data collection, the *OER Key Performance Indicators Implementation Guide* (Vol. 4.0) was revised reflecting current practices.
- We continued our partnership with the DHE Research & Planning led by Suzanne Smith, ex-officio member, to collect and analyze the data
- We conducted the first statewide student OER perception survey. We did the community colleges and state universities (fall 2024) and the UMass System Office did the UMass System (spring 2025).

OER Key Performance Indicators



- **C**ost
 - Total costs savings (average national textbook cost x no. of students versus no/low-cost textbooks x no. of students)
- **O**utcomes:
 - Total no. of OER courses/sections as a percentage of total courses/sections
 - No. of students enrolled in OER courses as a percentage of total enrollment
 - **Changes in DFW rates in OER vs. Non-OER courses**
 - **Demographics of students taking OER courses vs. students in non-OER courses**
- **U**sage:
 - No. of faculty, staff, students participating in OER activities on campus
- **P**erception:
 - A student perception survey to be added this fall 2024.

Open Massachusetts: A Public Higher Education Repository



- Rachel Oleaga at Northern Essex Community College as the Repository Coordinator (part-time)
- Rachel has worked to increase the visibility and utility of the Repository
- She has provided many online workshops over the past year on accessing the repository including offering office hours to increase utilization.
- All 27 ROTEL textbooks in our repository are also in OER Common and the Open Textbook Library

External Advocacy



- Presentation of the FY24 OER Key Performance Indicators made to the AAC&U National Conference on January 24, 2025; Connecticut Statewide OER Conference on March 28, 2025; Open Ed in 2030 at Bridgewater State University on May 12, 2025; NEBHE Course Marking Conference on June 2, 2025; and the Community College Chief Academic Officers on June 5, 2025
- Bob Awkward and Sue Tashjian continue to serve on NEBHE's Open Education Advisory Committee
- Bob Awkward represents Massachusetts on DOERS3, the DOERS3 Equity Work Group and serves on the Open Education Network Steering Committee
- Many of our members led and presented at the Northeast OER Conference and the Open Education 2024 Conference