

# OER Awareness Levels Among U.S. K-12 Teachers Reach an All-Time High

*The growth comes as teachers find both benefits and drawbacks for using digital materials.*

OAKLAND, CA, USA, September 5, 2024  
/EINPresswire.com/ -- Nearly one-third of K-12 teachers in the U.S. are aware of open

educational resources (OER) — teaching and learning materials that are free to use, adapt, and share — according to the latest annual survey of K-12 educators conducted by [Bay View Analytics](#). This level of awareness represents an all-time high across five years of surveys, and an increase of four percent since last year. In addition, 30 percent of teachers report using OER.



More and more K-12 schools and districts have been turning to OER over the past several years, and this year, we've seen openly licensed materials likely reach a tipping point"

*Julia Seaman, Lead  
Researcher*

"More and more K-12 schools and districts have been turning to OER over the last few years, and this year we've likely seen openly licensed materials reach a tipping point," said Dr. Julia Seaman, Research Director at Bay View Analytics.

Teachers commonly report using OER as supplemental and required material to enhance their existing materials, creating personalized content for individual students or

groups. Teachers also report using OER to provide content in areas where students were struggling or to flesh out more advanced topics.

This growth in the awareness and use of OER is coupled with an increased (though not universal) interest in digital materials. The majority of K-12 teachers (79%) offered their required textbooks in a digital format for their students in the 2023-24 school year. Over half of all teachers (57%) agreed with the statement, "students learn better from print materials than they do from digital materials," and a larger majority (70%) agreed with the statement, "digital materials provide greater flexibility for students."

"Teachers are becoming increasingly comfortable with digital materials, which actually supports greater OER adoption," said Dr. Seaman. "There isn't total acceptance for digital, as print has its strengths, but teachers are embracing the flexibility that digital tools can provide."

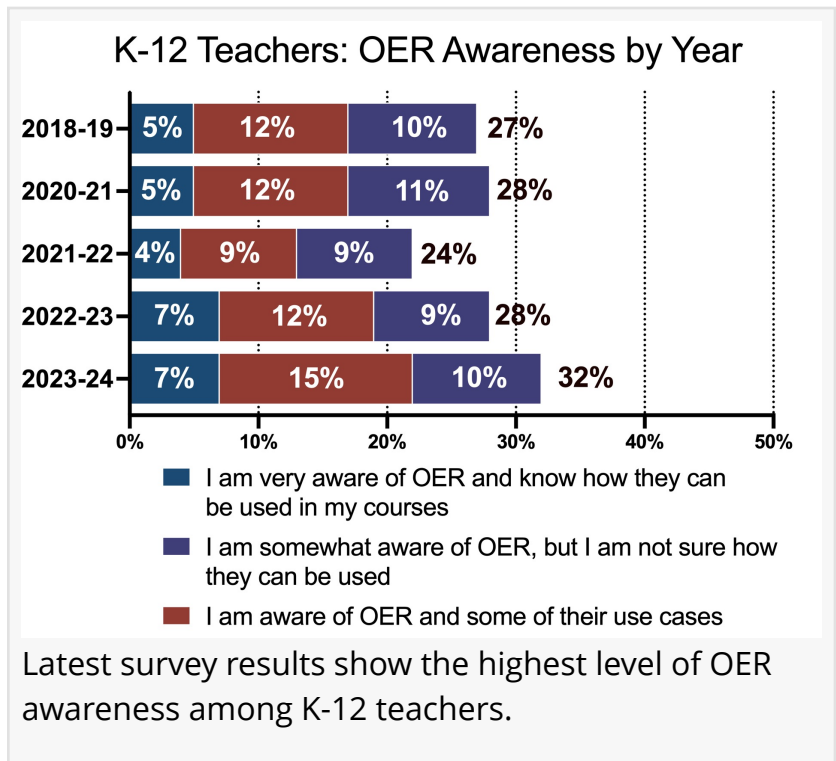


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Other key findings from the survey include:

- Only 10% of K-12 teachers report teaching any instruction over the year that was not fully in-person.
- Most teachers supplement to enhance existing course materials with different formats (e.g., videos, games) and to customize specific content.

These results are part of an annual survey of educators conducted by Bay View Analytics, tracking curricula adoption decisions in K-12 in the U.S. The project is supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Online Learning Consortium. The complete report, *Conflicted Digital Adoption*, has been released under a Creative Commons license and is available for download at [bayviewanalytics.com/k12OER](https://bayviewanalytics.com/k12OER). The entire series of reports for this project and for reports on higher education are available on the OER section of the Bay View Analytics webpage: [bayviewanalytics.com/oer](https://bayviewanalytics.com/oer).



## About Bay View Analytics

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