



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Statewide IT Academy

1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of this funding is to provide a statewide information technology academy program that provides curriculum and certification opportunities to middle and high school students at no cost to participants. OSPI partners with Microsoft to offer the Imagine IT Academy software and curriculum program to middle schools and high schools across the state. Certiport and CCI Learning are Microsoft partners that provide certification resources and support directly to schools as a component of this program.

2. **Description of services provided:**

Funding is provided via contract that results in the following services provided to middle and high schools in the state.

Curriculum:

- Microsoft Official Academic Course (MOA) digital textbooks
- E-learning, Lesson Plans, Student Projects and Test Banks
- Curriculum Mapping to Washington CTE courses
- Digital Literacy

Professional Development:

- E-Reference Online Library
- Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT) Membership
- Microsoft Innovative Educator (MEI)
- Teaching with Technology E-Learning curriculum

Certification:

- Certification test center site license for each school including:
 - Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) exam vouchers for teachers and students
 - Complimentary MOS, Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) and Microsoft Certified Educator (MCE) exam vouchers for faculty and staff professional development
 - Discounted Microsoft Certified Professional Exams

Partnership Resources:

- ITA Membership Plaque
- Posters to help recruit students
- Use of Microsoft IT Academy logo
- Teacher Training on ITA Tools & Benefits
- How to Guides



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3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

All Washington state high schools, middle schools, State Tribal Education Compact Schools (STECs) and Educational Service Districts (ESDs) are eligible for site licenses to offer IT Academy software and certification opportunities.

Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	Microsoft Certifications 105, Coding in Minecraft 224
Number of Schools:	Microsoft Certifications 186, Coding in Minecraft 822
Number of Students:	Microsoft Certifications 47,536, Coding in Minecraft Not Counted
Number of Educators:	Microsoft Certifications 562, Coding in Minecraft 334
Other:	N/A

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

☒ No

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$3,000,000	\$2,998,759
2022	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
2021	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
2020	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
2019	\$3,000,000	\$2,997,284

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
FY23	186
FY22	128
FY21	83
FY20	129

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

When originally established, the statewide contract did not include middle school access to software or certificates. This access was added to the contract during the 2015–16 school



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year. As of August 1, 2022, Microsoft Imagine Academy began offering Coding in Minecraft by Prodigy Learning. Coding in Minecraft by Prodigy Learning is a computer science credential program with supporting curriculum, delivered through Minecraft: Education Edition. The pathway includes four courses that immerses students in a Minecraft world to develop and prove their coding skills using MakeCode and JavaScript or Python. In 2022, CCI Learning partnered with Prodigy Learning to help with marketing based on its presence and relationship with WA teachers through Microsoft certification deployment. Now in the second year of implementation, the adoption of this product includes a total of 913 schools interested and 334 teachers trained, with 1,000 licenses deployed. This is a K–12 product that is deployed in all grade levels. In 2023, the Microsoft Imagine Academy was rebranded to Microsoft Certification Resources. Microsoft Technology Associate was retired in 2022 and replaced by Microsoft Certified Fundamentals. These role-based certifications meet current and upcoming skill gaps in technology.

8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

The number of districts participating/using the software and/or providing testing continue to demonstrate achievement based on the number of students earning Microsoft certifications from the previous year. Below is the completion number of certifications by type:

- MS Office Specialist: 12,922, previous year 14,445
- MS Fundamentals: 52, previous year 25
- Educator Karen Coumbe from Cavelero Mid/High School in Lake Stevens SD was recognized as the Certiport Certified Educator of the Year.
- Washington State student, Jonas Lee, from Lake Stevens SD, placed 3rd at the Certiport MOS U.S. National event.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

Allocated funding is entirely dedicated to the statewide contract, and does not include staff support at OSPI, or funding for communication and marketing tools to support increasing district understanding of opportunities for all students. Additionally, many school districts are using one-to-one technology which may not support the structured IT Academy platform for certification access. Gaps in student technology and internet access impacted software and certification accessibility this school year. Additionally, OSPI has been tasked with finding similar public-private partnerships at no cost to the state. While many software based curriculum options are free, certifications do carry cost irrespective of vendor.

10. Future opportunities:

Increased funding for FTE at OSPI to supply direct support, program implementation, and expansion in school districts would be useful. Investments in student access to internet connectivity and technology devices will support expanded access and digital equity.



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Continued reporting and analysis will result in a greater understanding of access and completion rates among student groups in Washington.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

(i) \$3,000,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$3,000,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for a statewide information technology academy program. This public-private partnership will provide educational software, as well as information technology certification and software training opportunities for students and staff in public schools for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years only. The office must evaluate other options that may be available in the state for a future public-private partnership to deliver similar services to students and staff of public schools at no cost to the state.

(ii) The office must require the recipient of these funds to report the impacts of the recipient's efforts in alignment with the measures of the Washington school improvement framework. The report must include the number of students served disaggregated by gender, race, ethnicity, and free-and-reduced lunch eligibility as well as the number of industry certificates attained by type of certificate.

12. Other relevant information:

The grantee provides a report to OSPI which includes students served through these services, in alignment with the measures of the Washington School Improvement Framework. The full report from the recipient of these funds was not completed at the time of this report.

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

[preliminaryfy23state-fundedprovisograntawardsupdated-42823.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

14. Program Contact Information:

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