



*VOEF Virginia Open Education Foundation*

# VOEF and Open Textbooks



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Currently, Virginia schools must rely on publishers and commercial integrators to provide authoritative learning content resources to their students on a system by system basis.



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The local courses however are aligned to a statewide common set of Learning Standards.

This causes much duplication of effort in acquiring resources for courses.



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Despite the availability of *open educational content* and free resource materials, there is little adoption of these materials *due to the cost* of integration and the assurance of quality.



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The mission of our organization to bring easily usable, quality open curriculum and educational content resources to all *students* in Virginia.



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The manner in which this is accomplished will be to assess, fund and deploy materials and content held in creative commons or public domain.



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Creative Commons:

Share, reuse, and remix — legally.

<http://creativecommons.org/>



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VOEF will facilitate the use of administrative tools that integrate the management and delivery of education. (i.e. Alfresco, Moodle, Open Office..)

Users of these tools and resources are free to alter the form and function of the source materials as will best suit their educational needs.



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## Rice University Connections

<http://cnx.org/>

Connexions is a growing collection of free scholarly materials and a powerful set of free software tools to help *authors* publish and collaborate, *instructors* rapidly build and share custom courses, *learners* explore the links among concepts, courses, and disciplines.

The [Content Commons](#) contains small "knowledge chunks" we call [modules](#) that connect into [courses](#). -from cnx.org



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## Topic outline



News forum → ↕ ↶ ✕ ⦿ 🏠

Add a resource...

Add an activity...



Lesson Planning → ↕ ↶ ✕ ⦿ 🏠



Add a resource...



Add an activity...



### Lesson Module



Insert a Learning Object here



Add an activity...



- Insert a Learning Object here
- Compose a text page
- Compose a web page
- Link to a file or web site
- Display a directory
- Deploy an IMS Content Package
- Insert a label



Add an activity...



Add a resource...

Add an activity...

## Latest news

[Add a new topic...](#)  
(No news has been posted yet)

## Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events

[Go to calendar...](#)  
[New Event...](#)

## Curriculum Search

System:

Edition:

Objective:

Grade:  and

Show Records:



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- These resources will be made, in some manner, freely available to all.
- Efforts will be made to support the acquisition, storage and presentation of instructional content and assessment resources in federated repositories.



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- The repositories will deliver resources either directly to students or through an Educational Authority.
- Virtual Learning Environment and Enterprise Document Management systems will be the mechanism through which these resources will be presented.





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Over time teacher, student and contracted created work in the Public Domain or under an Attribution, Non-commercial Share Alike, Creative Commons license will expand this repository.



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All new material based on the original work may carry the same license, so derivative works are similarly licensed.



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**Benefits to *users of this system* will be:**

1. Easier and greater availability of resources,
2. Faster deployment of newly developed resources to learners,
3. Easier manipulation of the resources for customized instruction,
4. Lowered costs of resource acquisition,
5. Federated replication of resources to a variety of educational organizations,
6. Methods to track resource usage, and modifications,
7. Support for research programs on the validity of resources and assessments.



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## Requirements for acceptance into regular use:

1. Alignment of content to Virginia SOLs,
2. Peer reviewed endorsement by educational authorities,
3. Versioning control system to assure quality of editions,
4. Transitional programs to allow schools and school systems to evaluate and integrate materials into the local curriculum,
5. Studies to validate content effectiveness in learning.



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## **Focus for Development of Open Textbooks:**

1. Evaluation of concept,
2. Pilot study requirements,
3. Funding,
4. Initial Material Projects contract/grants,
5. Material evaluation and endorsement by review committee,
6. Deployment strategies initiated,
7. Material pilot studies in LEA's,
8. Assessment of pilot effectiveness.



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## References:

[TED Video on Books](#)

[Heavy Backpacks](#)

<http://www.printondemand.com/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Print\\_on\\_Demand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Print_on_Demand)

<http://www.lulu.com/>

<http://www.blurb.com/create/book>

<http://voef.org>



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[Illustration by Matt Bors / from campusprogress.org](http://campusprogress.org)