



## Why OER?



### Retention & Success

In a recent study, students in 5 out of 6 courses had significantly lower withdrawal rates when presented with OER as their main course materials.<sup>1</sup> This is consistent with other studies that show initial costs of participating in coursework can negatively affect student persistence within a course.



### Affordability

When an OER is used in a course, all students get free access to these materials. This lowers barriers for those in the most need, while providing equal access and support to all students.

## Not just free: *open*

Open educational resources are free to access online, but that's not all they offer. OER are also openly licensed, allowing educators to adapt, remix, and update the materials for their courses.

Faculty at Iowa State University are using OER in many different ways: replacing traditional textbook readings, supplementing study materials, and creating new OER by combining existing ones.

- ASTRO 150 is using *OpenStax Astronomy*
- AMD 467 is using *Fashion and Apparel Consumer Behavior*
- HIST 222 is using *American Yawp*

USED IN

# 41

COURSES ANNUALLY

SAVING STUDENTS

# \$2.5 Million

SINCE 2017

SUPPORTING

# 3,428

STUDENTS ANNUALLY



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1. Zhao, Y., & Satyanarayana, A., & Cooney, C. (2020). *Impact of Open Education Resources (OER) on Student Academic Performance and Retention Rates in Undergraduate Engineering Departments*. Paper presented at 2020 Fall ASEE Mid-Atlantic Section Meeting, Virtual (hosted by Stevens Institute of Technology). <https://peer.asee.org/36048>