

Digital Accessibility Requirements Summary for Public School Districts

On April 24, 2024, the Federal Register published the Department of Justice’s (Department) final rule updating its regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The final rule has specific requirements about how to ensure that web content and mobile applications (apps) are accessible to people with disabilities.

The United States Department of Justice’s Office of Civil Rights maintains an [In-Depth Summary of these Updated Requirements](#). District administrators and webmasters are encouraged to review their website for specific details and examples.

Key Takeaways:

- School district websites, web content, mobile apps, social media posts, parent portals, and learning management systems must be accessible.
- Compliance requirements are aligned with Level AA of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), version 2.1.
- Requirements extend to third-party content the district posts or distributes.
- There are five (5) exceptions, primarily for archived, outdated, or unused content.
- Compliance timelines are determined by the size of the district’s community, not the number of students enrolled.

Exceptions

The following exceptions apply. Note that a community member can still request a specific webpage/document be made accessible, even if it technically falls within an exception.

| Exception | Summary |
|--|---|
| Archived Web Content | Content created before the district’s compliance deadline. Only applies to archived, outdated, or unused content; cannot be content that is currently in use! |
| Preexisting Electronic Documents | Word processing, presentation, spreadsheet, and PDF files posted before the compliance date. |
| Content Posted by an Independent Third-Party | Content posted by public members, not controlled by the district. For example, public replies to a district’s social media post are not required to comply. |
| Individualized Documents that are Password-Protected | Documents specific to individuals, such as old bills or student report cards, that are password-protected. |
| Preexisting Social Media Posts | Posts made before the district’s compliance deadline. |

Timelines

| Population Served | Compliance Date |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 50,000 or less | April 26, 2027 |
| 50,000 or more | April 26, 2026 |