

# Resources

## Legal

### Federal laws

The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. It became law in 1990 and has been revised several times, with the latest revision taking effect in 2017.

- [ADA Laws, Regulations & Standards](#)

**Title II** provides equal access for individuals with disabilities to “all services, programs, and activities provided or made available by public entities,” and covers state and local government services.

- [Title II](#)

**Title III** prohibits any business identified as “public accommodation” from discriminating on the basis of disability. The ADA currently defines 12 categories of public accommodations that can be owned by a private entity but are subject to the ADA. These include K-12 schools, undergraduate and graduate schools, museums, stores, restaurants, bars, service establishments, theaters, hotels, recreational facilities, doctors' and dentists' offices, shopping malls, and other businesses.

- [Title III](#)

**The Rehabilitation Act of 1973** defines and protects the same individuals as the ADA, but it differs from the ADA in terms of scope. The main difference is that the Rehabilitation Act only covers instances of federal funding, regardless of whether an institution is public or private. Any program conducted or procured by a federal agency or receiving federal money must abide by the regulations in the Rehabilitation Act. The sections most frequently referred to are **Section 504**, which was part of the initial law, and **Section 508**, which was added in 1986 and most recently revised in 2017.

**Section 504** of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act was the first disability civil rights law to be enacted in the United States. It prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in programs that receive federal financial assistance and set the stage for enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act](#)
- [Protecting Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Hidden Disabilities Under Section 504](#)
- [DO-IT Knowledge Base Articles](#)

**Section 508:** In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities. The law applies to all Federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. Under **Section 508**, agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information comparable to the access available to others. Although the original intent for Section 508 was intended for the federal sector, it is becoming more widely accepted that colleges and universities are subject to Section 508 under Title II. For example, some federal grants state that programs using that grant fall under the jurisdiction of Section 508.

- [Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act](#)
- [Update of Section 508 Standards](#)
- [Educause Review: Section 508 and What It Means to Higher Education](#)

## Related court cases

### [PAYAN v LACCD court case](#)

- Payan v. Los Angeles Community College District is a case brought by blind students against the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD). The students want the textbooks, handouts, websites, and other technology they use at school to be accessible to them. They sued in federal court under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- The federal judge ordered LACCD to make its materials, websites, and software accessible to blind students, and to remedy barriers in its library databases.

### [Other relevant court cases](#)

## Ethical

## Disabled voices

The best way to learn about disability is to listen to disabled voices.

- [Rooted in Rights](#)
- [Search Twitter for #A11Y](#): This hashtag was developed as a shorthand for “accessibility”: starts with an A, then there are 11 other letters, and ends in a Y.

# Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

The **World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)** develops web accessibility standards and provides resources and tools to support the implementation of web accessibility.

- [About W3C WAI](#), from W3C
- [How WAI Develops Accessibility Standards through the W3C Process: Milestones and Opportunities to Contribute](#), from W3C

**Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)** is an international standard published by the W3C WAI. **WCAG 2.2** is the current version of WCAG (as of October 2023).

- [WCAG 2 Overview](#), from W3C
- [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.2](#), from W3C

WCAG provides testable **Success Criteria** to objectively measure the accessibility of web content. There are 78 Success Criteria, which describe the requirements for conformance and define three **Levels of Conformance**: A (lowest), AA, and AAA (highest).

- [Understanding Conformance](#), from W3C

The Success Criteria are organized around the **Four Principles of Accessibility**. Content must be perceivable, operable, understandable and robust.

- [Understanding the Four Principles of Accessibility](#), from W3C

**WCAG 3** is in development. W3C shares updated drafts of WCAG 3 every 3-6 months.

- [WCAG 3 Introduction](#), from W3C
- [W3C Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 3.0 \(Working Draft\)](#), from W3C

## Accessibility Conformance Reports

An **Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR)** documents a product's conformance to the WCAG Success Criteria. Vendors are responsible for creating ACRs for their products.

The **Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)**, created by the IT Industry Council (ITI), is a template for ACRs. As of November 2023, **VPAT 2.5** is the latest version of the VPAT.

**ACR vs. VPAT?** The VPAT is a template used to create an ACR; an ACR is a completed VPAT. "VPAT" is also sometimes used as shorthand for "ACR based on the VPAT."

- [VPAT](#), from IT Industry Council (ITI)

- [How to Create an Accessibility Conformance Report Using A Voluntary Product Accessibility Template \(VPAT®\)](#), from Section508.gov

## Evaluating ACRs

[Accessibility in procurement: How to read a VPAT](#) (Video, 1 hr), presented by Terrill Thompson

- **Description:** Anyone who makes IT procurement decisions is assuming risk on behalf of their library, university, or organization. As the risk owner, you must take steps to ensure the product or service you're procuring is accessible to all users, including those with disabilities. How do you do that? A standard form used by IT vendors to document their level of accessibility is the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT). This session will explore VPATs in detail and provide guidance on how to read them, and what you can learn from them, without being an accessibility expert.

[VPAT Training](#), from ITI

## Keyboard Navigation

Keyboard navigation is a way to interact with a website using only the keyboard, as opposed to using a mouse. Keyboard accessibility is one of the most important aspects of web accessibility. Some users are unable to use a mouse, and Blind users typically use a keyboard for navigation. Users without disabilities may use a keyboard for navigation because of preference or efficiency.

- [Keyboard Compatibility](#), from W3C
- [Keyboard Accessibility](#), from WebAIM

## Accessibility remediation and accommodations

**Accessibility remediation** is the process of repairing known accessibility issues.

- [Web Accessibility First Aid: Approaches for Interim Repairs](#), from W3C

An **accessibility roadmap** or **compliance roadmap** is a plan to address known accessibility issues. Accessibility roadmaps usually define the highest priority repairs, identify the steps the vendor will take to resolve accessibility issues and set timelines for remediation.

- [Develop a Section 508 Accessibility Roadmap](#), from Section508.gov
- [Accessibility Roadmap Template \(v1.02\)](#) (see Accessibility Roadmap section), from the California State University Accessibility Technology Initiative

Vendors may also provide **accommodations** while accessibility remediation is in-progress or in cases where remediation is not possible. These can include PDF remediation, transcription and providing materials in alternative formats.

## Engaging with Vendors

- [Kyle Shachmut: Asking the Right Questions for Procuring Inclusive, Accessible Technology](#)
- [Hana Levay: Assessing Electronic Resources for Accessibility | ER&L 2020](#)
  - [Slide 33: Questions to ask a vendor](#)
- [Orbis Cascade Alliance: Vendors and Accessibility](#)
- SUNY's [Library Procurement Accessibility Toolkit](#)
- CSU's [Accessible Technology Initiative: Procurement](#) page