

DISTRICT WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY: PLAN FOR NEW CONTENT

Federal and state law, as well as School Committee policy, prohibit the discrimination against persons with disabilities who wish to access Acton-Boxborough Regional School District programs and services. This access includes information contained on the ABRSD's website.

To the extent that it does not create an undue burden or fundamentally alter the content, the ABRSD will take steps to ensure that the District's website and content are as equally accessible to persons with and without disabilities. These efforts should ensure that people with and without disabilities:

1. Are able to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same benefits and services within the same timeframe, with substantially equivalent ease of use.
2. Are not excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or otherwise subject to discrimination in any ABRSD program, service, or activity delivered online.
3. Receive effective communication of the ABRSD's programs, services, and activities delivered online.

Standards for Accessibility

The accessibility and functionality of the ABRSD's website and other public ABRSD online content shall be measured according to the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA and the Web Accessibility Initiative Accessible Rich Internet Applications Suite (WAI-ARIA) 1.0 for web content. Both WCAG and WAI-ARIA are guidelines to make website content more accessible to all users, particularly individuals who have vision, hearing, cognitive, physical or communication disabilities. More information about WCAG and WAI-ARIA can be found at <https://www.w3.org/WAI>. Following these recommendations will also often make website content more accessible to users in general.

Therefore, the ABRSD is committed to ensuring the following:

1. Accessibility of the website for students, parents, and members of the community with disabilities.
2. New and modified content on the District's website conforms to industry standards W3C WAI's Web Content Accessibility Guideline (WCAG) 2.0.
3. That all new, newly-added, or modified online content and functionality will be accessible to people with disabilities as measured by conformance to the Benchmarks for Measuring Accessibility.
4. The District has procedures whereby students, parents, and members of the public may present a complaint related to the accessibility of any official District web presence developed, maintained or offered by the District.

References:

Policy IJND – Empowered Digital Use – Access to Digital Resources
Policy IJNDC – School and District Web Pages
Policy AC – Nondiscrimination
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
Massachusetts Civil Rights Act (MCRA)

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