Understanding Compliance Standards

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http://www.foxbright.com/accessibility--compliance/keeping-content-compliant/

Compliance Standards

508 Accessibility

www.section508.gov

The Access Board developed standards to which U.S. federal agencies must comply in order to make their sites accessible. The U.S. General Services Administration has developed a website where free training courses are available.

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG20/glance/

Developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), these guidelines give greater focus to accessibility concerns and will update current 508 Accessibility Standards. Adoption of WCAG 2.0 AA is progressing steadily and was slated to become ratified in December 2015. As school districts receive federal funding they must be in compliance with WCAG 2.0 within six months of ratification into law.

WCAG at A Glance

Perceivable

- Provide **text alternatives** for non-text content.
- Provide **captions and other alternatives** for multimedia.
- Create content that can be **presented in different ways**, including by assistive technologies, without losing meaning.
- Make it easier for users to **see and hear content**.

Operable

- Make all functionality available by **keyboard**.
- Give users **enough time** to read and use content.
- Do not use content that causes **seizures**.
- Help users **navigate and find content**.

Understandable

- Make text **readable and understandable**.
- Make content appear and operate in **predictable** ways.
- Help users **avoid and correct mistakes**.

Robust

- Maximize **compatibility** with current and future user tools.

Top Six Topics to Review on your site:

http://www.foxbright.com/accessibility--compliance/keeping-content-compliant/

Images

Appropriate Alternative Text (Alt attribute) must be provided for all images so screen reader users can understand the message conveyed by the images on the page. Images require alternative text (alt-tag) if they provide any content to the page. If they are purely decorative or described by the surrounding content, they can be left empty (alt= "") so the screen reader user isn't distracted from the more important content of the page.

Headers

Use headings to organize the structure of your content. Use Headings to indicate and organize your content structure. The screen reader will create an outline of the page content based on the heading levels. Do not use heading levels out of order (e.g. H2, H4, H3, H2) as this will cause the content to get mixed up.

Video/Audio

Video must include captions. Video and Audio must include transcripts. There are instructions for adding captions and transcripts at http://www.foxbright.com/accessibility--compliance/keeping-content-compliant/.

Tables

Layout tables are used to format content and do not require special tags to be accessible. Data tables present tabular information in a grid and have a column or rows that show the meaning of the information. Data tables must contain appropriate ID/header attributes.

Links

Use unique and descriptive link names. Avoid using Click Here for links as it provides no information to the user consuming the content. It is imperative the user know the destination of the link out of context.

Create accessible Word or PDF documents

If you link to a document, you must provide a link to the viewer for that document type. Make sure that any document you are linking to is accessible. To learn more about creating accessible Word and PDF documents visit https://www.section508.gov/best-practices

Recommendations

Develop a Policy

Develop an organizational content standards policy for all electronic material (Web, PDF, Word, etc.) Determine audit frequency and breadth. Consider enforcement produces while creating the policy.

Policy Examples

Michigan State: http://www.msu.edu/accessibility.html
University of WA: http://www.washington.edu/accessibility

Train Staff

Instruct and guide web content editors on adopted policy and standards.

Get Started

Select sections of the website; review and update to district standards & WCAG standards.