

Fulton County Schools

Website Accessibility Plan

1. Purpose and Goals

Fulton County Schools (FCS) is committed to providing accessible digital resources to all individuals, including those with disabilities, as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This plan outlines the district's commitment to ensuring that its website adheres to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA, ensuring usability for all visitors, regardless of disabilities.

The purpose of this website accessibility plan is to:

- Ensure that the FCS website and all related online services meet the standards of accessibility.
- Maintain compliance with ADA standards and other relevant federal laws, including Section 504 and 508.
- Provide an inclusive online environment for students, parents, staff, and community members with disabilities.

The goals of this plan are to:

- Evaluate and improve the accessibility of the district's website.
- Ensure that new content posted is accessible and that existing content is retrofitted to meet accessibility standards.
- Regularly review and update the website to maintain compliance with evolving guidelines.

2. Accessibility Testing Standards and Procedures

The following testing standards will guide the process of ensuring that the FCS website is ADA-compliant and accessible to individuals with disabilities.

a. Compliance with WCAG 2.1 (Level AA)

The district will ensure that its website complies with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, focusing on Level AA standards, which address:

- **Perceivable Content:** Text alternatives for non-text content, captions for multimedia, adaptable content that can be presented in different ways without losing information or structure, and distinguishable content for easier visibility.
- **Operable User Interface:** Content that can be navigated and accessed using keyboards, enough time for interaction, content that avoids seizures (e.g., flashing), and navigation aids.
- **Understandable Information:** Text that is readable and understandable, web pages that appear and operate in predictable ways, and tools to avoid and correct mistakes.
- **Robust Content:** Web content must be interpretable by a wide variety of assistive technologies and adaptable to future technology needs.

b. Ongoing Testing and Auditing

- **Automated Testing Tools:** The district will employ automated accessibility evaluation tools (such as WAVE) to periodically scan the website for potential issues.

- **Manual Testing:** District/school staff trained in accessibility standards will conduct manual testing to ensure that the user experience is accessible across various assistive technologies (such as screen readers, voice recognition software, and text magnifiers).
- **User Feedback:** A clear system will be in place for users to report accessibility barriers. The district will respond to feedback in a timely manner and prioritize fixing reported issues.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

To ensure the successful implementation of this accessibility plan, the following roles will be defined:

- **Web Accessibility Coordinator:** This individual will oversee the implementation and compliance of the website with accessibility standards. They will be responsible for regular audits, staff training, and responding to accessibility issues.
- **IT/Web Development Team:** The IT team will be responsible for making technical changes to the website, ensuring that new content and updates meet accessibility standards.
- **Content Creators:** All staff responsible for uploading or managing content will receive training on how to create and post accessible content.
- **Third-Party Vendors:** Any third-party services or digital tools integrated into the district’s website must also meet WCAG 2.1 AA standards.

4. Training and Resources

- **Staff Training:** The district will provide ongoing training to staff involved in website content creation, maintenance, and IT development on ADA compliance, accessibility guidelines, and the use of assistive technologies.
- **Accessibility Resources:** The district will maintain a collection of resources and guidelines for staff on how to create accessible web content (including text, images, videos, and interactive features). This may include how-to guides, video tutorials, and links to external resources on web accessibility.

5. Complaint Resolution Process

The district will provide an accessible and easy-to-find mechanism for reporting accessibility issues. The process for reporting and resolving complaints will be as follows:

- **Reporting:** A form will be available on the website for users to report accessibility issues.
- **Acknowledgement:** The Web Accessibility Coordinator will acknowledge receipt of the complaint within 5 business days.
- **Resolution:** The district will work to resolve the issue within 30 days. If more time is required, the complainant will be informed of the progress.
- **Appeal Process:** If a user is unsatisfied with the resolution, they may request an additional review by the district’s legal or compliance department.

Conclusion

The Fulton County School District is committed to making its website accessible to all users, including those with disabilities. By adhering to WCAG 2.1 AA guidelines and continuously improving the accessibility of digital resources, the district aims to provide equal access to information and services for all.