



**Forum Guide to Ensuring  
Equal Access to  
Education Websites**  
[http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub\\_2011807.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2011807.asp)



School and district websites are fundamental, and even vital, sources of information across the education enterprise. To disseminate information widely, websites and other electronic information resources must be accessible to individuals with disabilities. The *Forum Guide to Ensuring Equal Access to Education Websites* provides information to help state and local education agencies, as well as other education institutions, improve the accessibility of their electronic information. Education leaders are challenged to bring their schools, districts, and state education agencies into compliance with accessibility standards not only to fulfill legal requirements, but also because presenting information in a manner that can be used by all people, regardless of disability status, is the right thing to do.

While there are several highly technical resources that detail accessibility standards, this guide focuses, instead, on raising awareness in nontechnical audiences. Chapter 1 discusses how people with disabilities access electronic information and introduces the federal Section 508 accessibility law. Chapter 2 describes the technical capabilities required by Section 508 and international guidelines for achieving accessibility. Chapter 3 recommends practical strategies for planning to improve accessibility and comply with standards in an education organization. Appendices include additional information about references and resources, Section 508 compliance leadership indicators, and answers to commonly-asked questions about Section 508. The document concludes with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 1.0 checkpoints that explain how developers can operationalize section 508 guidelines.

This guide is intended for use by information technology administrators, data specialists, and program staff responsible for the “content” in data reports, education leaders, and other stakeholders who have an interest in seeing that our schools, school districts, and state education agencies operate in an effective and equitable manner for all constituents, regardless of disability status. This publication is available electronically at [http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub\\_2011807.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pub_2011807.asp). Instructions for ordering print copies are also available on the National Forum on Education Statistics website.

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