EmpowerED Superintendent

Title II ADA Updates: Key Points for Superintendents

In April 2024, the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued <u>a final rule under Title II</u> of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requiring all state and local governments including K-12 districts—to ensure their digital platforms are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Top 5 Things to Know About Title II ADA Updates

1. Who do these updates apply to?

The updates apply to state, local, and district government entities, including K-12 and higher education institutions.

2. What specifically is required?

The updates mandate that web content and mobile applications must comply with the <u>Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, Level AA</u>. Check out the 12 new requirements as part of <u>WCAG 2.1 Level AA below</u>.

3. When are the compliance deadlines?

The final rule was published on April 24, 2024, and state and local governments are given a timeline to comply with the new requirements based on their agency size.

- Populations 50,000 or more: Deadline is April 24, 2026.
- Populations fewer than 50,000: Deadline is April 24, 2027.

4. Which platforms does this apply to?

The rule applies to all digital platforms, including web content and mobile applications, provided or made available by state and local governments, including those managed by third parties. For K12 school districts, this includes websites, learning management systems, instructional applications, software, teacher-created materials, social media posts, and information available on mobile apps.

5. Why does this matter?

The update helps to ensure that digital content is accessible to individuals with disabilities, thereby eliminating barriers to accessing government services and participating in civic activities.

Resources:

- How to get started
- DOJ Final Rule Summary
- What's New in WCAG 2.1
- Learning on the Go: ADA Title II Updates and Requirements

Ensuring digital accessibility is not just a compliance issue—it's a critical step toward educational equity and inclusion.



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