



Reformatted LCAP Template – Accessibility FAQs

Background

The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) template has been reformatted to meet the updated accessibility requirements of Section 508. This reformatting includes the removal of checkboxes, limiting the use of tables, and other necessary changes to the layout and visual appearance of the template to accommodate screen reader technology for the visually impaired. The reformatted LCAP Template must be used beginning with the 2018-19 LCAP year.

Why was the LCAP Template reformatted?

In January 2017, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794d) was updated to clarify that information and communications technology (ICT) developed, procured, maintained, or used by the federal agencies must be made accessible to persons with disabilities. In California, Government Code section 7405 requires state entities and entities using state funds to comply with section 508. All state and local governments must comply with all disability laws including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Does this reformatted LCAP change any of the LCAP requirements?

No. This is not a new LCAP template; no new requirements have been added to the template, nor have any of the current requirements in the template changed.

Reformatting the LCAP template ensures that the CDE and LEAs are in compliance with the accessibility laws and provides access to the LCAP template to all of California's diverse population. In addition, the updated template has features (such as headings for easier navigation) that makes the document better for all users.

Are districts and county offices of education required to comply with the Web Accessibility requirements?

Yes. LEAs must comply with Web accessibility requirements. Although Section 508 directly pertains to federal agencies, LEAs must comply with Section 504 and Title II of the ADA which prohibits discrimination of individuals with disabilities.

When the CDE posts links to school district and county offices of education LCAPs, must those destination links be Section 508 compliant?

Yes. “Third-party content” posted on CDE’s Website must meet accessibility standards. The requirements for Web accessibility pertain to Web links on the CDE Website, such as those links provided by LEAs to the LEAs’ approved LCAP.

Can the posting of a Section 508 compliant version of the LCAP template be postponed until the LCAP is revised for the 2020/21–2022/23 LCAP cycle?

No. The revised 508 standards does provide a “safe harbor” for unaltered, existing (aka “legacy” documents). However, because LEAs will make changes within the LCAP template during the Annual Update process, the LCAP would no longer be considered a legacy document and LEAs would be responsible to ensure that those changes meet the Web accessibility standards.

Additional Resources:

For more information from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) see the following Web page:

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/frontpage/faq/readingroom.html>

To see more resolution agreements and letters between U.S. DOE OCR and educational agencies, click on the following link:

https://www.ed.gov/ocr-search-resolutions-letters-and-agreements?keywords=Web&title=&subject_resolution_agreement=%22Resolution%20Agreement%22&subject_resolution_letter=%22Resolution%20Letter%22&keywords_504_ADA=%22Section%20504/ADA%22&keywords_title_II=%22Title%20II%22&keywords_state=CA

For more information on WCAG 2.0 see the following Web page:

<http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>

For more information on how to file a discrimination complaint, please see the following link to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights: How to File a Discrimination Complaint. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.pdf>