



Accessible Content Initiative

ADA Title II Update: Extended Deadline, Expanded Scope

Colleagues,

Federal update: The U.S. Department of Justice has extended the ADA Title II compliance deadline. The new deadline for WCAG 2.1 Level AA compliance is **April 26, 2027** — extended from April 24, 2026.

Earlier this week, AVC of Information Technology Dan Watkins shared news of a significant federal update. We want to take a moment to explain what changed, what didn't, and what it means for our work going forward.

What Changed

The DOJ extended the compliance deadline to **April 26, 2027** to give public institutions more time to remediate web content, documents, and applications. With the extension of the deadline, the DOJ also clarified and expanded the scope of what we're required to ensure is accessible:

Additions:

- Social Media Content
- 3rd Party Content
- Agencies cannot contract away accessibility obligations
- Separate is not equal (having two versions of the same file)

Already in Scope & Aligns with Other Laws:

- Websites & Web Content
- Web & Mobile Applications

- Documents
- Spreadsheets
- Audio & Video
- Course Content in LMS

The federal standard itself — WCAG 2.1 Level AA — is unchanged. Only the timeline has shifted.

What Hasn't Changed

Important: Extending the deadline does not suspend VCCCD's accessibility obligations. Our responsibility to provide accessible services, content, and materials to people with disabilities remains in full effect.

Everything you've learned and practiced — heading styles, alt text, descriptive links, color contrast, accessible emails — still matters. Every document you've made more accessible is already making a difference for students and colleagues who rely on it. The extension gives us time to build real skills, not just check boxes.

The focus remains on building accessible practices going forward — and on ensuring that any content currently in use that affects access to district services, classes, or programs meets the standard.

What's Coming

The *Access Starts With Us* campaign is evolving to match the new timeline. Here's a preview:

Continued email tips — monthly accessibility topics through spring 2027, covering PowerPoint, tables, video captions, Canvas, social media, and more.

Printed resources — quick-reference guides for cubicles, workrooms, and shared spaces at all campuses.

Live workshops — hands-on sessions tailored for classified staff and faculty, coming later this year.

Targeted guidance — resources designed for specific employee groups, based on the accessibility tasks most relevant to each role.

Updated accessibility resources — a clearer, more useful home for guidance on the VCCCD web.

If you have ideas or topics you'd like us to cover, reply to this email or reach us at communications@vcccd.edu.

Thank you for everything you've done so far. You've built a foundation worth building on — and we're in this for the long haul.



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