

ADA

Understanding the New
WCAG 2.1 Standards



Introduction: Americans With Disabilities Act

- ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in many areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and many public and private places that are open to the general public.
- ADA is divided into five titles that relate to different areas of public life. Title II pertains to programs and activities of state and local government entities.
- ADA Title II is regulated and enforced by the U.S. Department of Justice

Introduction: ADA WCAG 2.1 Standards

What is it and who does it impact?

- ADA Title II now uses Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA as the technical accessibility standard for state and local government websites and mobile apps.
- WCAG 2.1 builds on WCAG 2.0, adding 17 accessibility requirements, with particular attention to mobile users, people with low vision, and people with cognitive or learning disabilities.
- We need to be in compliance by the end of the school year.

Introduction: ADA WCAG 2.1 Standards

WCAG 2.1 has FOUR key principles

1. Perceivable

Text, images, charts, and media are available in ways learners can perceive.

2. Operable

Content can be navigated with a keyboard and screen reader focus order.

3. Understandable

Titles, links, captions, and notes explain what each element means.

4. Robust

Structure survives export, reuse, and assistive technologies where supported.

WCAG 2.1: *What This Looks Like in Practice*



Layout and Formatting

This template is formatted for digital accessibility. To ensure your slides remain accessible, please do the following:

- Use one of the **included layouts** for each of your slides (after adding a new slide, choose *Slide > Apply layout*). Avoid adding floating text boxes.
- Give a **unique title** to each slide.
- **Try not to resize** any of the elements, including text size. If you run out of space, add another slide.

Adding Images to Your Slides

- When adding **simple images**, remember to add descriptive alt text. To do this, right click the image to find the Alt Text option. Keyboard shortcut is Ctrl+Alt+Y on most platforms.
- The description should write the purpose and key takeaway of the image. Include data values when they are essential.
 - *Example: “elementary student smiles after getting off the bus on first day of school”.*



Color Contrast: Design for Readability First

WCAG 2.1 Level AA target: 4.5:1 for normal text; 3:1 for large text and key graphics.



PASS

Navy on white — 14.3:1



PASS

Teal on white — 5.0:1



PASS

Gold on navy — 9.1:1



FAIL

Pale blue on white — 2.6:1

Key Takeaway: Do not rely on color alone to convey meaning. Pair colors with text or icons.

Ex: don't just use red to say stop, include the word or the stop sign shape.

Tables and Charts: Keep it Simple

- Slides are best for summaries; provide full data in an accessible source when needed.
- Tables CANNOT be used as a design element.

Ex: Simple table pattern

Week	Completed	Target
1	25%	30%
2	35%	45%

Caption: Weekly completion improved after reminder emails were added.

Helpful Tip

Use one header row or one header column. Avoid merged cells. Add captions and direct labels.

Why am I telling you all this?

Try PDF Spaces | All tools | Edit | Convert | E-Sign | Find text or tools | Share | Ask AI Assist

Prepare for accessibility

- Automatically tag PDF
- Automatically tag form fields
- Change reading options
- Check for accessibility
- Open accessibility report
- Identify form fields
- Add alternate text
- Use setup assistant
- Fix reading order

Accessibility Checker

- Document (6 issues)
 - Accessibility permission flag - Passed
 - Image-only PDF - Passed
 - Tagged PDF - Failed
 - Logical Reading Order - Needs manual check
 - Primary language - Failed
 - Title - Failed
 - Bookmarks - Failed
 - Color contrast - Needs manual check
- Page Content (3 issues)
- Forms
- Alternate Text (5 issues)
 - Figures alternate text - Failed
 - Nested alternate text - Failed
 - Associated with content - Failed
 - Hides annotation - Failed
 - Other elements alternate text - Failed
- Tables (4 issues)
 - Rows - Failed
 - TH and TD - Failed
 - Headers - Failed
 - Regularity - Failed
 - Summary - Skipped
- Lists (2 issues)
 - List items - Failed
 - Lbl and LBody - Failed
- Headings (1 issue)

Academic Report for School Year 2024-2025

October 14, 2025

Madison Board of Education

Why am I telling you all this?

- Presentations are going to look a little different
- Social media is going to look a little different
- The website is going to look a little different

You are going see the same quality of content, just in a simpler format.

