

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

Background

The Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional School Board recognizes that information and communications technology (ICT) is a fundamental tool for education, employment, and public access. Universal access to ICT is essential to ensure that students, employees, and members of the public with disabilities have equitable access to the activities of the school. Accessible technology prevents exclusion and ensures compliance with state and federal disability laws.

Policy Statement

In accordance with the Virginia Information Technology Access Act, Va. Code § 2.2-3500 et seq., it is the policy of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional School Board that all ICT purchased, acquired, or developed in-house for use by students, employees, program participants, and the general public be accessible to individuals with disabilities. The school ensures that individuals with disabilities have access to and use of information and data that is equivalent to the access and use provided to individuals without disabilities, unless an exception applies under federal law.

Definitions

“Accessibility” means alignment with federal § 508 standards and § 255 guidelines adopted pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 794d and 47 U.S.C. § 255, and 28 C.F.R. § 35.200 and all other applicable federal and state laws.

“Accessibility Conformance Report” means a completed Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) or other document indicating the conformance of a product to accessibility standards such as federal § 508 Standards and § 255 Guidelines adopted pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 794d and 47 U.S.C. § 255. The Accessibility Conformance Report shall be completed by a digital accessibility subject matter expert with significant experience with product evaluation or by a qualified neutral third party.

“Information and communications technology” or “ICT” means any website, application, or other product or service primarily intended to fulfill or enable the function of information processing and communication by electronic means, including transmission and display via the Internet.

“Person with a disability” means the same as defined in Va. Code § 51.5-40.1.

Applicability

This policy applies to all ICT external and internal systems that are not included in the exceptions found in 28 C.F.R. § 35.201 or 36 C.F.R. Part 1194, Appendix A, § E202.

Assurance of Accessibility

The Executive Director or designee must ensure that all school ICT:

- Provides equivalent access to individuals with disabilities.
- Is designed to present information in formats accessible or adaptable to all users.
- Conforms with the requirements of 28 C.F.R. 35.200, whether developed in-house or procured.

Procurement Requirements

All future contracts for the procurement of ICT shall include an “Information and Communications Technology Access Clause.”

- Certification: Vendors must certify that their products conform to accessibility standards.
- Non-Conformance: If a vendor cannot certify conformance, the school may require a vendor-paid Accessibility Conformance Report and a Vendor Accessibility Roadmap. The roadmap must highlight non-conforming elements and provide a specific timeline for remediation.
- Exceptions: The school may adopt non-accessible ICT only if its use does not result in individuals with disabilities being denied the benefits of any program, service, or activity, consistent with federal regulations.

Digital Accessibility Coordinator

The Executive Director or designee may designate an employee to serve as the Digital Accessibility Coordinator. This individual:

- Ensures compliance with state and federal laws, including the Virginians with Disabilities Act and the Virginia Human Rights Act, to ensure that ICT and other products or services can be accessed by persons with disabilities;
- Oversees the development and implementation of the school’s digital accessibility policy; and
- Serves as the point of contact for accessibility-related inquiries and reporting.

The name, phone number, email address, and office address of the digital accessibility coordinator will be published in a conspicuous and easily accessible location on the school’s website.

Reporting and Exclusions

The Executive Director or designee shall track any ICT that does not conform to accessibility standards and is not included in the exceptions found in 28 C.F.R. § 35.201 or 36 C.F.R. Part

1194, Appendix A, § E202. Any non-conforming technology not covered by federal exceptions must be reported to the appropriate executive branch agency.

Adopted: September 17, 2026

Legal Ref.: 28 C.F.R. 35.200; 36 C.F.R. Part 1194.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3500 through 2.2-3505, 51.5-1 et seq.

Cross Ref.:	Pol 0011	Nondiscrimination
	Pol 7014.1	Purchasing Procedures