

Resolution Agreement

Juneau School District OCR Reference No. 10161109

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education initiated an investigation into an allegation that the Juneau School District (“the District”) violated Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) and that statute’s implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“Title II”) and that statute’s implementing regulations at 28 C.F.R. Part 35. Specifically, the complainant alleges that the District’s website contains barriers to access for people with disabilities, thereby denying them an equal opportunity to participate in the District’s programs, services, and activities, and denying them effective communication necessary for full participation in the District’s programs, services, and activities.

This Agreement has been entered into voluntarily and does not constitute an admission that the District violated Section 504 and Title II and those statutes’ implementing regulations.

Assurances of Nondiscrimination. The District hereby reaffirms its commitment to ensure that people with disabilities have an opportunity equal to that of their nondisabled peers to participate in the District’s programs, benefits, and services, including those delivered through electronic and information technology, except where doing so would impose an undue burden or create a fundamental alteration.

Benchmarks for Measuring Accessibility. For the purposes of this Agreement, the accessibility of online content and functionality will be measured according to the World Wide Web Consortium’s (W3C’s) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA and the Web Accessibility Initiative Accessible Rich Internet Applications Suite (WAI-ARIA) 1.0 for web content, which are incorporated by reference.

Adherence to these accessible technology standards is one way to ensure compliance with the District’s underlying legal obligations to ensure people with disabilities are able to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same benefits and services within the same timeframe as their nondisabled peers, with substantially equivalent ease of use; that they are not excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in any District programs, services, and activities delivered online, as required by Section 504 and Title II and those statutes’ implementing regulations; and that they receive effective communications with District programs, services, and activities delivered online.

The District voluntarily agrees to take the actions set forth below.

Remedies and Reporting

1. Undue Burden and Fundamental Alteration. For any technology-related requirement in this Agreement for which the District asserts an undue burden or fundamental alteration defense, such assertion may only be made by the Superintendent or by an individual designated by the Superintendent and who has budgetary authority after considering all resources available for use in the funding and operation of the service, program, or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion, including the cost of meeting the requirement and the available funding and other resources. The written statement will be certified by the Superintendent or designee. If such a determination is made, the certifying official will describe in the written statement how it will provide equally effective alternate access. To provide equally effective alternate access, alternatives are not required to produce the identical result or level of achievement for persons with and without disabilities, but must afford persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to obtain the same result, to gain the same benefit, or to reach the same level of achievement, in the most integrated setting appropriate to the person's needs.
2. Policies and Procedures for New Online Content and Functionality. By July 15, 2016, the District will submit to OCR for its review and approval proposed policies and procedures ("the Plan for New Content") to ensure that all new, newly added, or modified online content and functionality will be accessible to people with disabilities as measured by conformance to the Benchmarks for Measuring Accessibility set forth above, except where doing so would impose a fundamental alteration or undue burden.
 - a) The Plan for New Content must contain sufficient quality assurance procedures for full implementation, including setting up a system of testing and accountability to maintain the accessibility of all online content and functionality on an ongoing basis, and backed by adequate resources. This requirement also applies to the District's online content and functionality developed by, maintained by, or offered through a third-party vendor or through the use of open sources, and includes setting up systems of accountability and verifying claims of accessibility by the third-party vendors or open sources.
 - b) When fundamental alteration or undue burden defenses apply, the Plan for New Content will require the District to provide equally effective alternate access. The Plan for New Content will require the District, in providing equally effective alternate access, to take any actions that do not result in a fundamental alteration or undue financial and administrative burdens, but nevertheless ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals with disabilities receive the same benefits or services as their nondisabled peers.

- c) By September 30, 2016, and after receiving OCR’s approval of the Plan for New Content, the District will officially adopt the amended policies and procedures.
 - d) Reporting: Within 15 calendar days of their adoption, the District will submit to OCR the approved policies and procedures, evidence of their adoption and distribution, and a description of how they are being implemented.
3. Notice. By August 1, 2016, the District will submit to OCR for review and approval a proposed Notice on its website to persons with disabilities regarding how to request the webmaster or other appropriate person to notify the District regarding inaccessible online content or functionality. The proposed Notice will include information, or an accessible link to information, about how to file a grievance through the district’s grievance procedure required by the Section 504 and Title II implementing regulations. Within 10 calendar days of receiving OCR’s approval of the proposed Notice, the District will publish the approved Notice by prominently posting the Notice on its website.
 - a) Reporting. Within 15 calendar days of publishing the approved Notice, the District will provide documentation to OCR regarding the locations and content of its published Notice.
4. Training. Starting no later than 30 calendar days from the date of this Agreement, or 30 day calendar days from the first day of the new school year for school-based staff, and annually thereafter, the District will deliver website accessibility training to all appropriate personnel, including, but not limited to: content developers, webmasters, procurement officials, and all others responsible for developing, loading, maintaining, or auditing web content and functionality.
 - a) Reporting: Within 30 calendar days of conducting each training session required by this Agreement, until such time as OCR closes its monitoring of this Agreement, the District will submit to OCR documentation that the training has been delivered. The documentation will include a list of invitees and attendees and their position titles, a description of the delivered training content, and the presenters’ credentials for providing such training.
5. The District understands that OCR will not close the monitoring of this Agreement until OCR determines that the District has fulfilled the terms of this Agreement and is in compliance with the regulations implementing Section 504 at 34 C.F.R. 104.4 and the regulations implementing Title II at 28 C.F.R. 35.130 and 35.160(a), which were at issue in this case.
6. The District also understands that by signing this Agreement, it agrees to provide data and other information related to the District’s obligations under this Agreement, in a timely manner in accordance with the reporting requirements of this Agreement. Further, the District understands that during the monitoring of this Agreement, if necessary, OCR may visit the

District, interview staff members, and request such additional reports or data, including simulated website accounts and passwords, as are necessary for OCR to determine whether the District has fulfilled the terms of this Agreement and is in compliance with the regulations implementing Section 504 at 34 C.F.R. 104.4 and the regulations implementing Title II at 28 C.F.R. 35.130 and 35.160(a), which are at issue in this case.

7. The District understands and acknowledges that OCR may initiate administrative enforcement or judicial proceedings to enforce the specific terms and obligations of this Agreement. Before initiating administrative enforcement (34 C.F.R. 100.9 and 100.10), or judicial proceedings to enforce this Agreement, OCR shall give the District written notice of the alleged breach and 60 calendar days to cure the alleged breach.

_____/s/_____
Dr. Mark Miller
Superintendent
For the Juneau School District

____6/20/2016_____
Date