

# Accessible Technology Policy

## Question:

We are trying to track down examples of accessibility/accessible technology policies from college systems. If your system currently has a policy, would you mind sharing it?

- Jess Thompson, Program Administrator, eLearning & Open Education, Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
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## Answers:

This is the CCCS system policy: <https://www.cccs.edu/sp-3-125g-web-accessibility-procedure/>

Here is the one from the CSU: <http://www.calstate.edu/accessibility/>

Barbara Frey and Lorna Kearns (Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education, University of Pittsburgh) and Denise King (Carlow University) have written general guidelines for an accessibility policy for online courses as a result of a 2011 from Quality Matters. This policy is a starting point for institutions wishing to develop accessibility policies and practices for their online courses and is designed as a set of dynamic guidelines. Here is a link to the generic accessibility policy: <https://www.qualitymatters.org/qa-resources/resource-center/articles-resources/accessibility-policy-guidelines>

- Kay Shattuck, D.Ed., Director of Research, Quality Matters
- .....

If you go to: <https://www.tbr.edu/academics/accessibility-initiative>

You will find information that the Tennessee Board of Regents is doing regarding accessibility.

- Judy Lowe, AVP, Distributed Education & Multi Media , Chattanooga State
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There are several documents for our system. This is the one that you may find most useful. <http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/AA/DE/2011DistanceEducationAccessibilityGuidelines%20FINAL.pdf>

- Patricia James, Executive Director, California Community Colleges' Online Education Initiative
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This is a little bit different from a policy, per se, but here at WVU we have a module offered for faculty through our Academic Innovation unit which provides instruction on how to make online courses fully accessible: <http://online.wvu.edu/Faculty/Resources/Accessibility/>

Purdue's Web Accessibility policy looks pretty robust, though perhaps starting to get a little dated (2011): <http://www.purdue.edu/policies/information-technology/viic1.html>

I suppose I am less familiar with specific policies, but am aware that many institutions are crafting accessibility statements (which likely guide their individual policies, in much the same way that a mission or vision statement would guide strategic priorities). Here is such a statement from UMich, pertaining specifically to web accessibility: <https://campusinfo.umich.edu/accessibility-statement>.

Then there are of course the W3C standards, of which I am sure you are aware: <https://www.w3.org/standards/webdesign/accessibility>

They also provide a draft of a guide (looks like circa 2014) for "Developing Organizational Policies on Web Accessibility": <https://www.w3.org/WAI/impl/pol>

There is a lot of content on their whole WAI Resources page, which may be worth wading through: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/Resources/#managing>

Running a filtered Google search for "site:edu" and then "accessibility statement" or "accessibility policy" may also be a way to narrow some of the results.

- Sarah Elizabeth Kennedy, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Design, and Extension Librarian, West Virginia University

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