



wcet

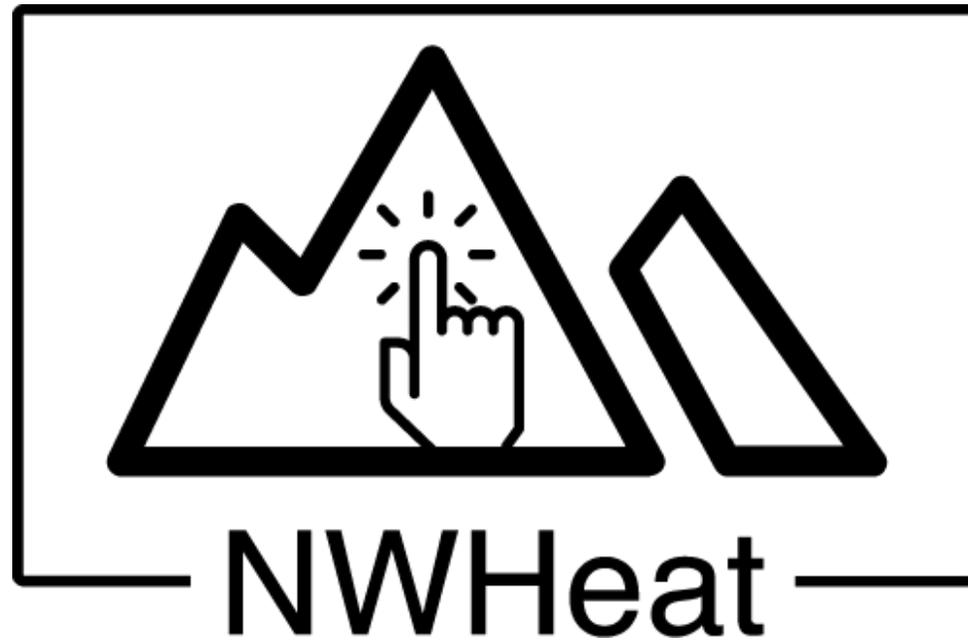
Webcast

Accessibility in EdTech: How Do Your Products Rate?

March 13, 2024



Hosted in partnership with:





Welcome!

- Slides can be downloaded via the link in chat.
- Please use the Question box for questions and Chat for other information exchange.
- Slides, recording, and shared resources will be emailed to attendees.

Megan Raymond

Senior Director, Membership & Programs

WCET

mraymond@wiche.edu

Speakers



Kelly Hermann

Vice President for Accessibility,
Equity & Inclusion
University of Phoenix



Kelly Hoyland

Director, Higher Education
Programs
1EdTech

Who is 1EdTech?

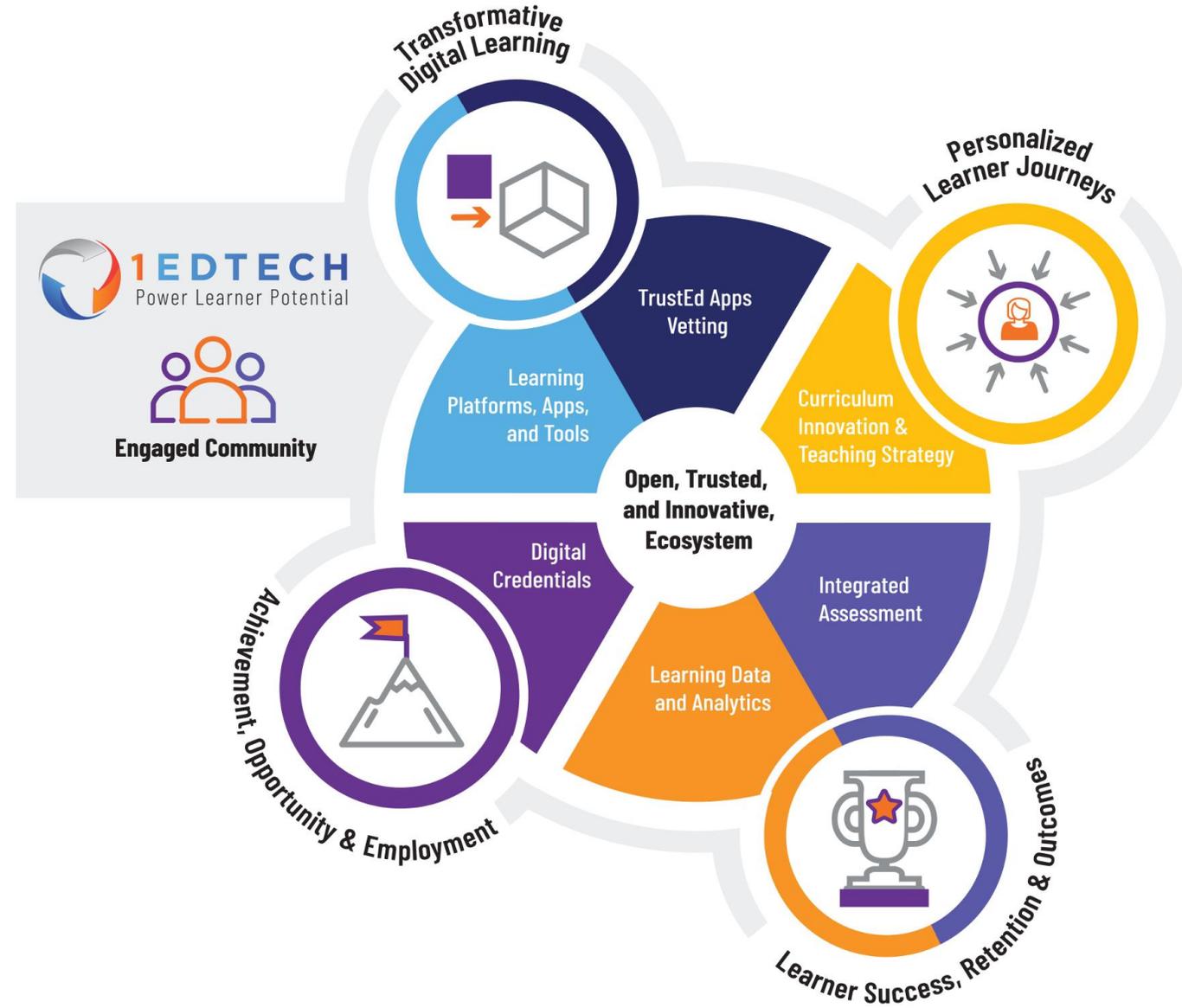
A uniquely effective collaboration:

- A trusted network of leading organizations and individuals
- Foundation and assurance of an open, trusted and innovative edtech ecosystem
- Leadership and investment across boundaries
- A sustainable force multiplier for every member and all of edtech



The ecosystem we are shaping

- **Open:** Connectivity based on open standards as the first option; choice enabling
- **Trusted:** Safe, transparent, verifiable, engendering lasting partnerships
- **Innovative:** Catalyzing advancements in education and digital learning



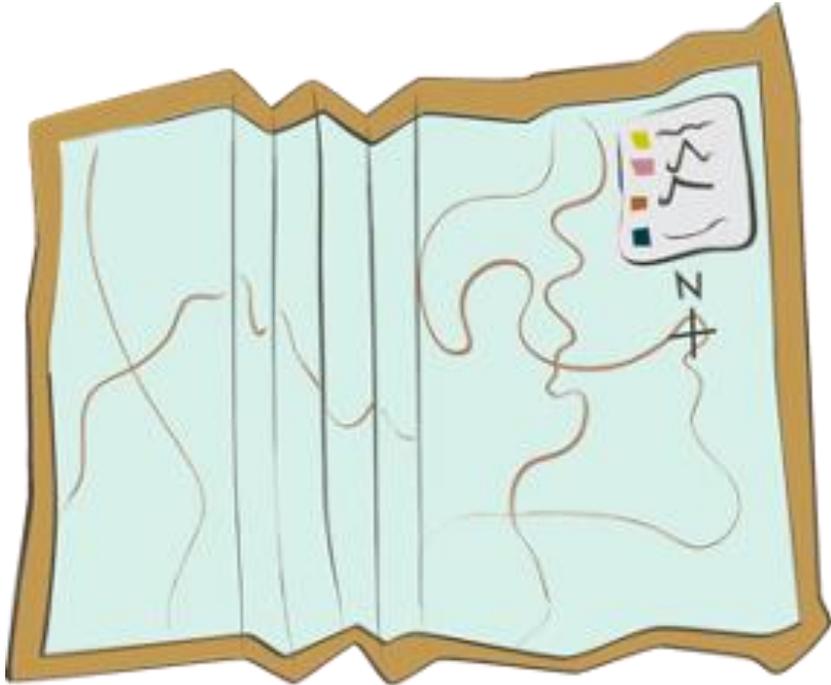
Accessibility means...

A person with a disability is afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an equally integrated manner with substantially equivalent ease of use.

*US Department of Education,
Office for Civil Rights*



Why Accessibility Vetting Matters



Accessibility is a journey, not a destination

- Ensure equal access to educational technology
- Promote inclusivity and diversity in education
- Share expertise among accessibility professionals and influence the market

The Who: TrustEd Apps Accessibility Task Force

- Higher Education and K-12 members meet along with the edtech suppliers
- Development of a rubric for assessing accessibility policies and programs by edtech vendors and products, for inclusion in the TrustEd Apps program
- Chair: Kelly Hermann, University of Phoenix



Main Purpose of the Rubric



- Leverage accessibility expertise across 1EdTech member organizations.
- Provide a common framework for discussions and evaluating tools with tool providers and suppliers about accessibility.
- Supplement legislated requirements and / or accessibility conformance documentation.

What it is not:

Not a replacement for legislated requirements or accessibility conformance documentation, nor legal advice

What problem does the rubric solve?

The rubric helps institutions:

- Evaluate important non-technical aspects of accessibility that should impact a purchasing decision.
- Leverage the accessibility expertise of the 1Ed Tech member community, if the institution does not have accessibility experts on staff
- Provides standard information that many institutions ask for by consolidating it in one place.

Suppliers: Build trust

The What: Trusted Apps Accessibility Rubric

A self-evaluation tool about the accessibility of a product and its organization's commitment to accessibility.

- Self-evaluation with task force review to ensure accuracy and thoroughness
- Help member organizations manage their accessibility vetting process
- Encourage suppliers to develop organizational maturity
- Enable accessible edtech tools for all learners



VPAT, ACR, & the Rubric - What's the difference?

Instrument Name	Description/Purpose
VPAT® Voluntary Product Accessibility Template	A format to explain how products meet the <u>Revised 508 Standards for IT accessibility</u> .
Accessibility Conformance Report	Demonstrates how a product meets the Section 508 Technical Standards. The VPAT can be used to create the ACR.
1EdTech Accessibility Rubric	A common framework for discussions with suppliers' accessibility practices. Includes VPAT/ACR reports information, and questions about design cycles, testing, documentation and staff qualifications
Educause HECVAT	A framework designed to measure vendor risk associated with PII. It <u>includes a small section on accessibility</u> .

Rubric Categories

- Information and Documentation
- Procurement Process and Communication
- Accessibility Conformance
- Alternatives and Accommodations

Accessibility Rubric Results: Optimized

Rubric Area	Expectations		
	OPTIMIZED	ADVANCING	EMERGING
GENERAL			
GEN1 - How are changes to key policies managed? <small>ANSWER: Notification is provided to the user in advance of a change</small>	✗	⚠	✗
INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION			
D1 - Does the supplier have a publicly available statement regarding accessibility? <small>ANSWER: Supplier has a comprehensive statement that includes identification of a standard and associated conformance documentation. Statement may also include information about accessibility development and conformance testing conducted by the supplier, including compatibility with assistive technology.</small>	✓	✗	✗
D2 - Does the supplier provide accessibility conformance documentation? <small>ANSWER: Accessibility conformance report (a completed VPAT) has comprehensive detail about how the criteria are met. May also provide information about alternative access options if needed.</small>	✓	✗	✗
D3 - Are the documents shared by the supplier accessible? <small>ANSWER: Fully accessible documents.</small>	✓	✗	✗
D4 - How long ago was the accessibility conformance documentation completed and/or updated? <small>ANSWER: Less than 12 months prior to the completion date of the rubric.</small>	✓	✗	✗
D5 - Does the supplier have a documented roadmap for accessibility improvements and enhancements? <small>ANSWER: Minimal information about planned accessibility improvements and enhancements.</small>	✗	⚠	✗
PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND COMMUNICATION			
P1 - Does the supplier provide a demonstration of accessibility (features) as part of the sales process? <small>ANSWER: Led by accessibility and/or technical staff; deep dive that includes discussion of conformance testing (including significant detail) and compatibility with commonly used assistive technology.</small>	✓	✗	✗
P2 - How are accessibility gaps identified? <small>ANSWER: There is a comprehensive strategy employed by the supplier to include qualified accessibility professionals, native users of assistive technology, third party accessibility consultants and others to reflect a variety of experiences.</small>	✓	✗	✗

ITEM # Description	Other Accessibility Vetting Efforts	Score +2	Score +1	Score 0
-----------------------	---	-------------	-------------	------------

Rubric Scoring: Maturity Scale

Max Score: 34 points

- Emerging: 1-10
- Advancing: 11-21
- Optimized: 22+

In Practice

- Suppliers conduct self-evaluations of their accessibility posture using the rubric
- 1EdTech provides a quality assurance check, prior to publishing
- Members can provide feedback on the completed rubric through an email link which will be directed to the appropriate 1EdTech contact
- Submissions are available to member institutions



Exploring Partnerships & Collaborations



- [EDUCAUSE](#)
- [Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights](#)
- [CAST/CITES \(Center for Inclusive Technology & Educational Systems\)](#)
- [Teach Access](#)

What can you do?

Promote use of the rubric

- Rubric is posted to [website](#) and viewable by anyone
 - Completed rubrics are only available to 1EdTech Members
- Encourage suppliers to complete the rubric
 - 1EdTech membership is required to have it published in the directory

Are you already a member?

- Check to see if you are a member:
<https://site.msglobal.org/membership/members>
- Learn more about 1EdTech membership:
<https://www.1edtech.org/about/membership/hed>



⋮

Questions from the Audience



Contact Information



Kelly Hermann

kelly.hermann@phoenix.edu

[LinkedIn Profile](#)



Kelly Hoyland

khoyland@1edtech.org

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Additional Information and Resources

The webcast recording and additional resources will be available in the next week: wcet.wiche.edu/events/webcasts.

Learn more and stay connected:

Visit wcet.wiche.edu to explore our Policy and Practice work, Events, Membership, and Sponsorship.

Learn more about the benefits of joining our community:
wcet.wiche.edu/join-us

WCET is the leader in the practice, policy & advocacy of digital learning in higher education.

Community

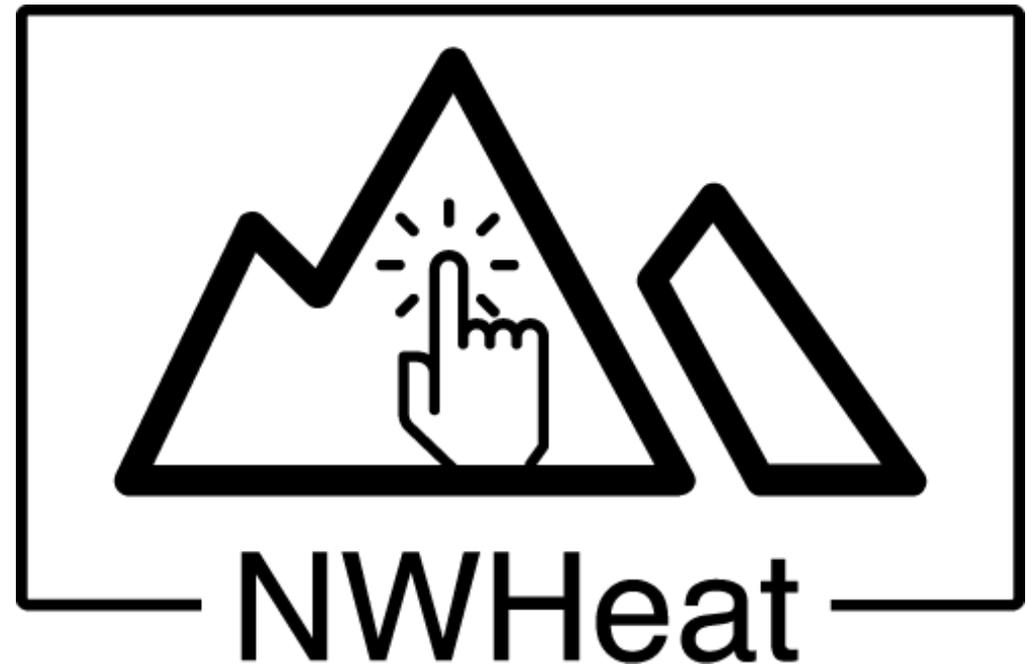
Equity

Policy

Practice

Learn more about our webcast partner:

Northwest Higher Education
Accessibility Technology Group
(NWHeat) – nwheat.org.



Upcoming WCET Events

Learn more and register: wcet.wiche.edu/events

- Seismic Shifts in Distance Ed Regulations: Gauging Department of Education Rulemaking – March 20, 1:00 MT
- AI Ethics, Governance, Policy, and Practice in Higher Education: A Strategic Webcast for Leaders and Practitioners – April 4, Noon MT

Join us for a WCET and SAN special event:

Distance Ed at a Crossroads: The Changing Landscape of New Regulations

July 30-31, 2024 | St. Louis, Missouri



Submit Your Session Idea for the WCET Annual Meeting

Deadline: Tuesday, April 2

bit.ly/WCET2024proposals

Join us October 8-10 in Long Beach, CA!

Thank you

Learn more about our annual sponsors:
wcet.wiche.edu/sponsorship/wcet-sponsors

Champion Sponsor



Leader Sponsor



Friend Sponsor



Supporter Sponsor



Supporting Members

Brigham Young
University

The California State
University

Colorado State
University

Michigan State
University

The University of
Arizona

University of
Florida

Supporting members make an additional investment and support WCET's mission to advance the effective use of technology for teaching and learning.



Thank you for attending!

wcet.wiche.edu