

Welcome to Today's WCET Webcast

JANUARY 30, 2025

The webcast will begin shortly.

There is no audio being broadcast at this time.

An archive of this webcast will be available on the WCET website next week.



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.

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Accessibility Commitment

WCET is committed to creating inclusive and accessible materials. Our slides are designed with high-contrast visuals, large text, and descriptive alt text for images.

If you need the slides in an alternative format or additional accommodations, please let us know. We value your feedback to make our content accessible for everyone.





wcet

Webcast

Navigating DOJ Accessibility Rules: Practical Approaches for Higher Education

January 30, 2025



⋮ Today's Moderator

Suzanne Ehrlich

Associate Professor & Co-Director, UNITE Design Lab

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Speakers




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New Accessibility Requirements for Web Content & Mobile Applications for Public Entities

Regulation Issued by the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice

New Accessibility Requirements: Overview

- Revises the regulation implementing Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Establishes requirements, including the adoption of WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards, for making accessible the services, programs, and activities offered by state and local government entities to the public through the web and mobile applications.

New Accessibility Requirements: Overview (continued)

- Nearly all digital material hosted by a public university or college will need to be compliant, including web content that is password protected.
- Institutions are responsible for contractual, licensed, or third-party services meeting the accessibility requirement.
- Although this rule applies only to public institutions, additional regulations governing private colleges and universities may be coming soon.

What are the WCAG 2.1 standards?

Web accessibility is standardized by the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, published by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). WCAG 2.1 is organized into four principles:

- Web content must be **perceivable** – alt text for images, semantic heading structure, form labels and tool tips, etc.
- Web content must be **operable** – keyboard accessible. Execution of tasks does not rely on the use of a mouse.
- Web content must be **understandable** – clear, simple, and consistent design/layout, and digestible content.
- Web content must be **robust** – compatibility with assistive technology (AT), such as screen readers and voice command. WCAG standards are written to be AT agnostic.

Strategies for Implementation



Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

ADA Title II Work Group formed to facilitate system-wide coordinated response to the ruling.

- Policy interpretation and guidance
- Webinars, trainings, and tools
- SBCTC hosts Canvas accessibility training courses
- Collect baseline data (in-house surveys and Canvas Ally tool) to track system-wide progress
- Memos shared with Executive leadership for continued awareness and buy-in

SBCTC – Accessible IT Coordinator Role



All 34 colleges identified
Accessible IT (AIT)
Coordinator role.

Helps to lead and
organize efforts locally
across the colleges.



Colleges encouraged to
form Web Accessibility
Work Groups.

Coordinator acts as
liaison between their
college and SBCTC.

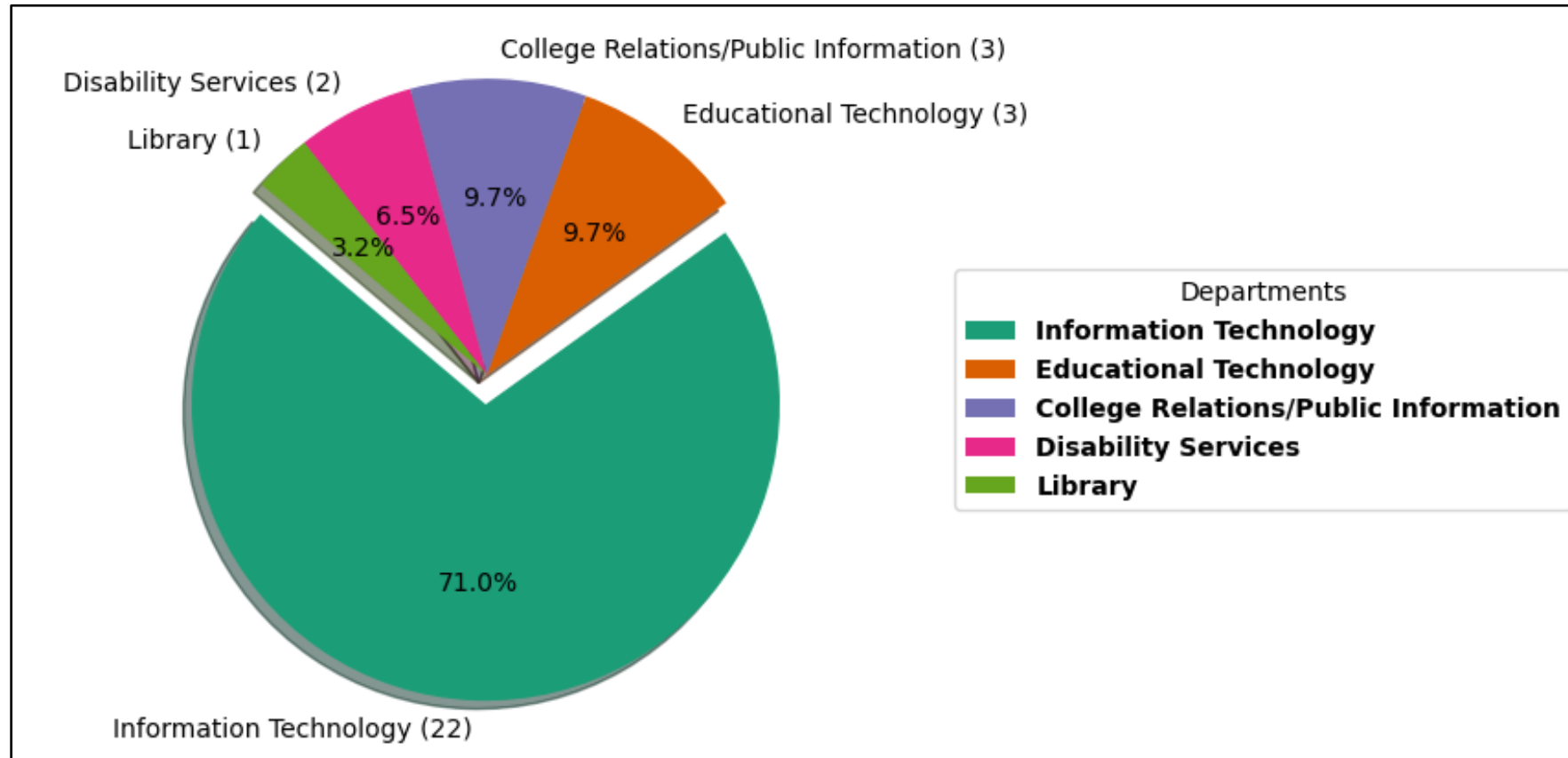


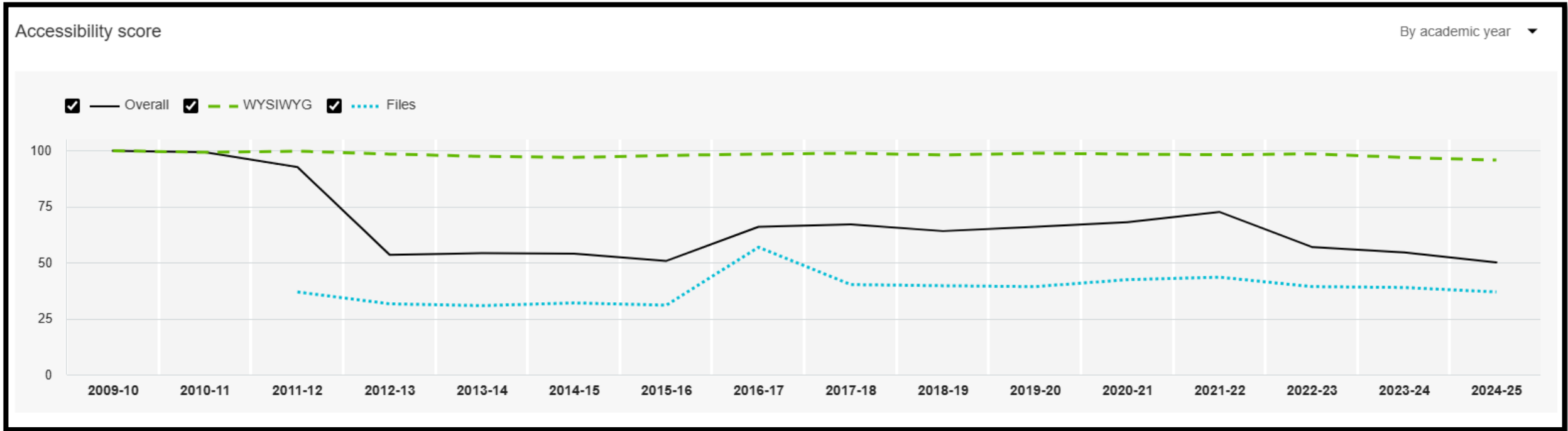
Revitalize dormant email listserv to connect
Coordinators together: AT Coords.



Coordinator responds to survey requests and
provide requested data.

Distribution of AIT COORDINATOR ROLE by Department





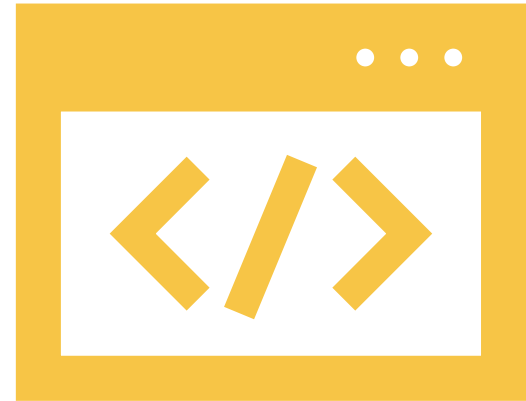
SBCTC – Canvas Ally Tool

Accessibility tool embedded in your Learning Management System designed to make digital course content more accessible and inclusive. Identifies issues and helps guide fixes.

SBCTC attempting to track system level data to track trends and progress.

SBCTC – College Websites

- Work with college web administrators to:
 - Determine if content creators and web editors receive training.
 - identify usage of website accessibility diagnostic/reporting tools.
- Long-term hope to identify a tool appropriate for all colleges and support coordination of adoption.
- Start with survey to establish baseline.



Gaps

- Third-party mobile/web applications and Publisher materials.
- Many colleges do not have the technical skillset and tools to evaluate and validate a vendor's claims.
- Free products often sidestep the procurement process.
- We must apply **more collective pressure** and expectations on the vendors to prove their level of accessibility compliance.
 - Vendor demonstrations
 - Robust contract language
 - 1 Ed Tech Vendor Rubric....

Vendor Compliance



1EdTech Consortium

- A trusted network of leading organizations and individuals
- Creating a 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



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



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.

The rubric helps suppliers to build trust.

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.

Rubric Categories



1ed.tech/accessibility

Information and Documentation





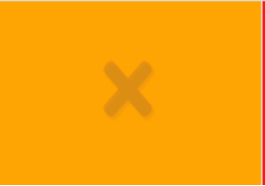

Procurement Process and
Communication

Accessibility Conformance

Alternatives and
Accommodations

Accessibility Rubric

Accessibility Rubric Results: **Optimized**

Rubric Area	Expectations		
GENERAL	OPTIMIZED	ADVANCING	EMERGING
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	OPTIMIZED	ADVANCING	EMERGING
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>			

Request for Proposal (RFP) Requirement

We require all respondents to this RFP to complete the 1EdTech TrustEd Apps Accessibility Rubric, following the 1EdTech TrustEd Apps Accessibility Rubric Specification 1.0. This rubric is an essential tool for evaluating the accessibility maturity of products, ensuring they cater to a wide range of student abilities. Respondents must provide detailed insights into their accessibility policies, design considerations, and training initiatives. This requirement aligns with our commitment to inclusivity and ensures that all educational tools procured meet and exceed standard accessibility conformance documentation.

Questions from the Audience



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Resources

- WCET, *Accessibility in the Spotlight: Department of Justice Regulations*, <https://wcet.wiche.edu/frontiers/2024/08/02/accessibility-in-the-spotlight-do-regulations/>
- Department of Justice, *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability: Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities*, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/24/2024-07758/nondiscrimination-on-the-basis-of-disability-accessibility-of-web-information-and-services-of-state>
- 1EdTech, *TrustEd Apps Accessibility Rubric*, <https://www.1edtech.org/standards/accessibility-rubric>

Additional Information and Resources

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

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

Stay Connected with WCET

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

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



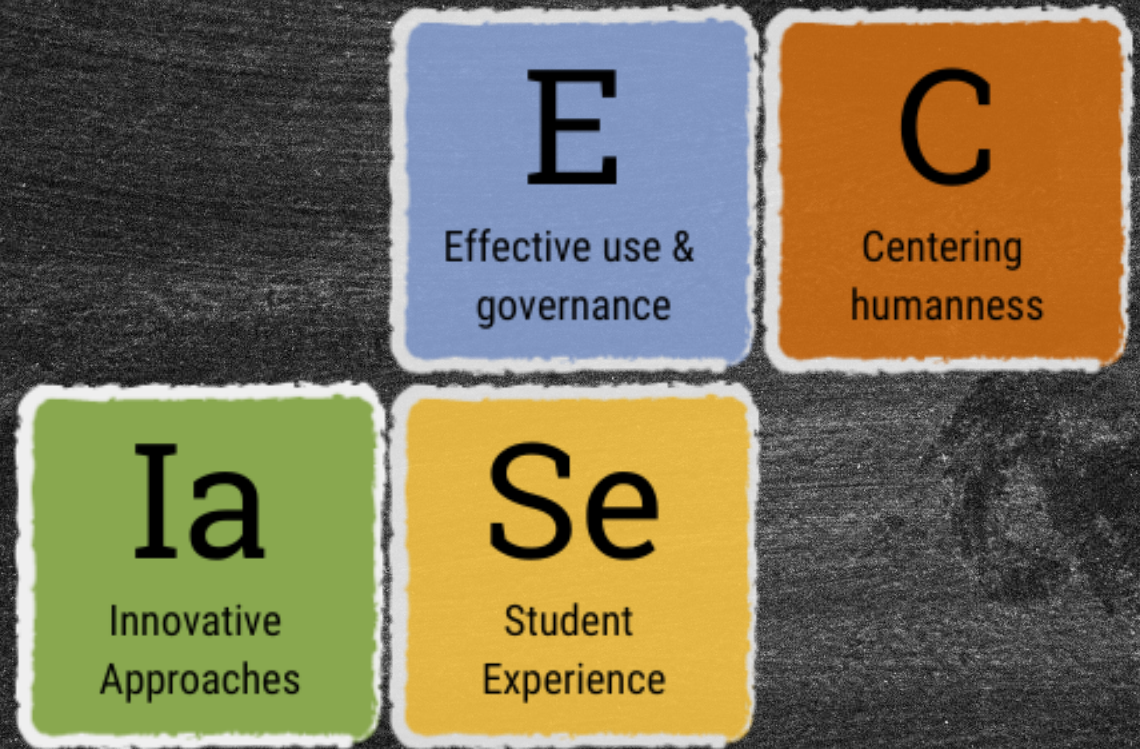
Upcoming WCET Events

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

- WCET Member-only Closer Conversations, Preparing and Planning for DOJ's Guidelines for Accessibility:
 - January 31, 12:00 PM MT – At capacity; registration closed.
 - February 7, 12:00 PM MT – Only a few spots remaining!
- Webcasts, open to everyone:
 - Human-Centered AI: The Key to Effective Next-Gen Courses – February 12, 11:00 AM MT
 - Distance Education's Disconnect: Understanding the Relationship Between the Cost and Price of Distance Education – February 19, 12:00 PM MT

Elements of Humanizing EdTech in Higher Education

WCET Virtual Summit
Exclusively for WCET Members
February 27, 2025 | 10AM-2PM MT



Learn more and register: wcet.wiche.edu/events/2025-virtual-summit

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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!

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