

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4856

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie, Assemblymen McClellan, Simonsen,  
Conaway, Verrelli, Assemblywoman Dunn, Assemblyman Dancer,  
Assemblywomen Jasey and Quijano**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Internet websites and web services of school districts, charter schools, and renaissance schools to be accessible to persons with disabilities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning the accessibility of public school websites and  
2 web services and supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the  
3 New Jersey Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
8 1. a. Any Internet website or web service of a school district,  
9 charter school, or renaissance school shall comply with the Web  
10 Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA, or the  
11 most up-to-date version of the guidelines.

12 b. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a procedure  
13 to determine whether the Internet website or web service of a school  
14 district, charter school, or renaissance school complies with the  
15 requirements of this section. The Office of Information Technology  
16 in the Department of Education shall be responsible for issuing  
17 certifications of compliance, which certifications shall attest that an  
18 Internet website or web service complies with the requirements of  
19 the section.

20 c. (1) If a school district, charter school, or renaissance school  
21 establishes or significantly improves an Internet website or web  
22 service after the effective date of this act, the public school shall  
23 receive a certification of compliance from the office before the  
24 Internet website or web service may be considered operational.

25 (2) Every two years following initial certification, the office  
26 shall recertify the compliance of each Internet website or web  
27 service operated by a school district, charter school, or renaissance  
28 school with the requirements of this section.

29 d. As used in this section, "Internet website or web service"  
30 includes any webpage, website, web service, online curriculum, or  
31 online third party or open educational resource product that is made  
32 available to enrolled students or the public by a school district,  
33 charter school, or renaissance school through the Internet.

34  
35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

36  
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38 STATEMENT

39  
40 This bill establishes accessibility standards for the Internet  
41 websites and web services of school districts, charter schools, and  
42 renaissance schools ("public school").

43 Specifically, the bill requires the Internet website and web  
44 services of every public school to comply with the Web Content  
45 Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA, or the most up-to-  
46 date version of the guidelines. The WCAG guidelines provide  
47 standards through which digital content may be accessible for  
48 persons with disabilities. In June 2018, the WCAG 2.1 guidelines

1 were issued to improve accessibility guidance for three major  
2 groups: users with cognitive or learning disabilities, users with low  
3 vision, and users with disabilities on mobile devices.

4 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education would be  
5 required to establish a procedure for determining whether an  
6 Internet website or web service complies with the WCAG  
7 guidelines. The Office of Information Technology in the  
8 Department of Education would be responsible for issuing  
9 certifications of compliance to attest that an Internet website or web  
10 service complies with these requirements.

11 The bill provides that when a public school establishes or  
12 significantly improves an Internet website or web service after the  
13 effective date of this bill, the school would be required to receive a  
14 certification of compliance from the office before the website may  
15 be considered operational. The bill also requires the office to  
16 recertify the compliance of each Internet website or web service  
17 operated by a public school every two years following initial  
18 certification.

19 As defined in this bill, the term “Internet website or web service”  
20 includes any webpage, website, web service online curriculum, or  
21 online third party or open educational resource product that is made  
22 available to enrolled students or the public by a public school  
23 through the Internet.