SENATE, No. 3094

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex)
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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.
AN ACT concerning the accessibility of public school websites and
web services and supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the
New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

1. a. Any Internet website or web service of a school district,
charter school, or renaissance school shall comply with the Web
Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA, or the
most up-to-date version of the guidelines.
b. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a procedure
to determine whether the Internet website or web service of a school
district, charter school, or renaissance school complies with the
requirements of this section. The Office of Information Technology
in the Department of Education shall be responsible for issuing
certifications of compliance, which certifications shall attest that an
Internet website or web service complies with the requirements of
the section.
c. (1) If a school district, charter school, or renaissance school
establishes or significantly improves an Internet website or web
service after the effective date of this act, the public school shall
receive a certification of compliance from the office before the
Internet website or web service may be considered operational.
(2) Every two years following initial certification, the office
shall recertify the compliance of each Internet website or web
service operated by a school district, charter school, or renaissance
school with the requirements of this section.
d. As used in this section, “Internet website or web service”
includes any webpage, website, web service, online curriculum, or
online third party or open educational resource product that is made
available to enrolled students or the public by a school district,
charter school, or renaissance school through the Internet.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes accessibility standards for the Internet
websites and web services of school districts, charter schools, and
renaissance schools (“public school”).

Specifically, the bill requires the Internet website and web
services of every public school to comply with the Web Content
Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA, or the most up-to-
date version of the guidelines. The WCAG guidelines provide
standards through which digital content may be accessible for
persons with disabilities. In June 2018, the WCAG 2.1 guidelines
were issued to improve accessibility guidance for three major
groups: users with cognitive or learning disabilities, users with low
vision, and users with disabilities on mobile devices.
Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education would be
required to establish a procedure for determining whether an
Internet website or web service complies with the WCAG
guidelines. The Office of Information Technology in the
Department of Education would be responsible for issuing
certifications of compliance to attest that an Internet website or web
service complies with these requirements.
The bill provides that when a public school establishes or
significantly improves an Internet website or web service after the
effective date of this bill, the school would be required to receive a
certification of compliance from the office before the website may
be considered operational. The bill also requires the office to
recertify the compliance of each Internet website or web service
operated by a public school every two years following initial
certification.
As defined in this bill, the term “Internet website or web service”
includes any webpage, website, web service online curriculum, or
online third party or open educational resource product that is made
available to enrolled students or the public by a public school
through the Internet.