

RESOLUTION AGREEMENT
Falmouth Public Schools
OCR Complaint No. 01-18-1010

The Falmouth Public Schools (District) has voluntarily entered into this agreement to resolve the allegations in the above-referenced complaint. The District assures that it will take the following actions and will meet its obligation to comply with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II) or any other law enforced by OCR.

Prior to the completion of OCR's investigation, the District agreed to resolve the issues of this investigation pursuant to Section 302 of OCR's Case Processing Manual. Accordingly, to resolve the issues of this investigation, the District agrees to take the following actions.

Assurances of Nondiscrimination. The District hereby reaffirms its commitment to ensure that people with disabilities have an opportunity equal to that of their nondisabled peers to participate in the District's programs, benefits, and services, including those delivered through electronic and information technology, except where doing so would impose an undue burden or create a fundamental alteration.

Benchmarks for Measuring Accessibility. For the purposes of this Agreement, the accessibility of online content and functionality will be measured according to the W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA and the Web Accessibility Initiative Accessible Rich Internet Applications Suite (WAI-ARIA) 1.0 for web content, which are incorporated by reference.

Adherence to these accessible technology standards is one way to ensure compliance with the District's underlying legal obligations to ensure people with disabilities are able to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same benefits and services within the same timeframe as their nondisabled peers, with substantially equivalent ease of use; that they are not excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in any of the District's programs, services, and activities delivered online, as required by Section 504 and Title II and their implementing regulations; and that they receive effective communication of the recipient's programs, services, and activities delivered online.

Remedies and Reporting

1. Proposed Policies and Procedures Regarding New Online Content and Functionality. By February 1, 2018, the District will submit to OCR for its review and approval proposed policies and procedures ("the Plan for New Content") to ensure that all new, newly added, or modified online content and functionality will be accessible to people with disabilities as measured by conformance to the Benchmarks for Measuring Accessibility set forth above, except where doing so would impose a fundamental alteration or undue burden.
 - a) When fundamental alteration or undue burden defenses apply, the Plan for New Content will require the District to provide equally effective alternative access. The

Plan for New Content will require the District, in providing equally effective alternate access, to take any actions that do not result in a fundamental alteration or undue financial and administrative burdens, but nevertheless ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals with disabilities receive the same benefits or services as their nondisabled peers. To provide equally effective alternate access, alternates are not required to produce the identical result or level of achievement for persons with and without disabilities, but must afford persons with disabilities equal opportunity to obtain the same result, to gain the same benefit, or to reach the same level of achievement, in the most integrated setting appropriate to the person's needs.

- b) The Plan for New Content must include sufficient quality assurance procedures, backed by adequate personnel and financial resources, for full implementation. This provision also applies to the District's online content and functionality developed by, maintained by, or offered through a third-party vendor, or by using open sources.
- c) Within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving OCR's approval of the Plan for New Content, the District will officially adopt, and fully implement the amended policies and procedures.
- d) Reporting: Within forty-five (45) calendar days of receiving OCR's approval, the District will submit to OCR the approved policies and procedures, evidence of their adoption and distribution, and a description of how they are being implemented.

2. Undue Burden and Fundamental Alteration. For any technology-related requirement in this Agreement for which the District asserts an undue burden or fundamental alteration defense, such assertion may only be made by the District's superintendent, or by an individual designated by the superintendent and who has budgetary authority, after considering all resources available for use in the funding and operation of the service, program, or activity. If the District asserts either defense, the District must provide a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion, including the cost of meeting the requirement, the available funding, and other resources. The written statement will be certified by the superintendent or designee with budgetary authority. If such a determination is made, the District will describe in the written statement how it will provide equally effective alternate access, *i.e.*, other action that would result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals with disabilities receive the same benefits or services provided by the District as their nondisabled peers.

3. Audit of Existing Content and Functionality. By February 1, 2018, the District will propose for OCR's review and approval the identity and professional credentials of an Auditor (corporation or individual) to audit all content and functionality on its website, including, but not limited to, the home page, all subordinate pages, and intranet pages and sites, to identify any online content or functionality that is inaccessible to persons with disabilities, including online content and functionality developed by, maintained by, or offered through a third-party vendor or an open source. The Auditor, whether a third-party consultant or District employee, will have sufficient knowledge and experience in website accessibility for people with disabilities to carry out all related tasks, including developing a Proposed Corrective Action Plan. The Audit will use the Benchmarks for

Measuring Accessibility set out above, unless the District receives prior permission from OCR to use a different standard as a benchmark. During the Audit, the District will also seek input from members of the public with disabilities, including parents, students, employees, and others associated with the District, and other persons knowledgeable about website accessibility, regarding the accessibility of its online content and functionality.

- a) Reporting: By February 1, 2018, the District will submit the professional credentials of its proposed Auditor to OCR for review and approval. OCR will evaluate whether the proposed Auditor has the requisite experience and knowledge to carry out an appropriate Audit and to develop a Proposed Corrective Action Plan. Within ninety (90) calendar days of receiving OCR's approval of the proposed Auditor, the District will submit to OCR documentation of the steps taken by the Auditor during the Audit, a description of the outreach it undertook and the input it received, and a detailed accounting of the results of the Audit.
4. Proposed Corrective Action Plan. Simultaneously with the submission of the Audit (i.e., within ninety (90) calendar days of receiving OCR's approval of the proposed Auditor), the District will submit to OCR for its review and approval a proposed Corrective Action Plan to address all inaccessible content and functionality identified during the District's Audit. The proposed Corrective Action Plan will set out a detailed schedule for:
 - (1) addressing problems, taking into account identified priorities, with all corrective actions to be completed within eighteen (18) months of the date OCR approved the Corrective Action Plan;
 - (2) setting up systems of accountability and verifying claims of accessibility by vendors or open sources; and
 - (3) setting up a system of testing and accountability to maintain the accessibility of all online content and functionality on an ongoing basis.
 - a) Within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving OCR's approval of the proposed Corrective Action Plan, the District will officially adopt and implement the Corrective Action Plan.
 - b) Reporting: Within forty-five (45) calendar days of receiving OCR's approval of the proposed Corrective Action Plan, the District will submit to OCR the approved Corrective Action Plan, and documentation establishing that the approved Corrective Action Plan is being implemented according to the approved schedule. Reports will be due every six months thereafter until the Corrective Action Plan has been completed.
 5. Notice. By February 1, 2018, the District will submit to OCR for review and approval a proposed Notice to persons with disabilities regarding how to request the webmaster or other appropriate person to provide access to (or notify the District regarding) online information or functionality that is currently inaccessible. The proposed notice will also include information or an accessible link to information instructing people how to file formal grievances under Section 504 and Title II. Within ten (10) calendar days of receiving OCR's approval of the proposed Notice, the District will officially adopt and prominently post the approved Notice on its home page and throughout its website (including all subordinate pages and intranet sites).

