

**Detroit Innovation Academy
Resolution Agreement
OCR Docket #15-17-1281**

Detroit Innovation Academy (the Academy) voluntarily submits this Resolution Agreement (Agreement) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), for the purpose of resolving the above-referenced complaint alleging violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), 29 U.S.C. § 794, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II), 42 U.S.C. § 12131 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. Part 35. This Agreement is voluntarily submitted by the Academy and does not constitute an admission that the Academy violated Section 504 and Title II and those statutes' implementing regulations.

In submitting this Agreement, the Academy affirms its Section 504 and Title II legal obligations to ensure that people with disabilities are able to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions and enjoy the same benefits and services within the 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 Academy's programs, services, and activities delivered online, as required by Section 504 and Title II and those statutes' implementing regulations; and that they receive effective communications of the Academy's programs, services, and activities delivered online.

The Academy agrees to take the following actions:

1. By July 31, 2017, the Academy will draft and submit to OCR for review and approval a policy and/or procedures to ensure information provided through the Academy's website(s) ("Online Content") is accessible to students, prospective students, employees, and guests with disabilities, particularly those with visual, hearing, or manual impairments or who otherwise require the use of assistive technology to access information (the "Web Accessibility Policy" or "Policy"). The Web Accessibility Policy will, at minimum, accomplish the following:
 - a. identify and adopt the specific technical standard(s) the Academy will use to determine whether Online Content is accessible (e.g., W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), Web Accessibility Initiative - Accessible Rich Internet Applications Suite (WAI-ARIA) techniques for web content, or other standard or combination of standards that will render Online Content accessible);¹
 - b. designate at least one individual (the "Web Accessibility Coordinator") and provide that individual with sufficient resources and authority to coordinate and implement the Web Accessibility Policy, and all other commitments relating to accessibility within this Agreement;

¹ This Agreement does not imply that conformity with WCAG, WAI-ARIA and/or other electronic and information technology standard is either required or sufficient to comply with the requirements of either Section 504 or Title II. The technical standard(s) serve only as guidance with respect to whether the Online Content is accessible.

- c. provide a procedure to ensure that Online Content and information obtained through Online Content provided or developed by third parties are accessible, except where doing so would impose a fundamental alteration or undue financial and administrative burden. The Academy makes no assurances to any content or open source software that is posted, hosted, or offered on the Academy’s website by an individual or entity outside of the control of the Academy. The Academy will take all steps reasonably calculated to prevent an individual or entity outside of the control of the Academy from posting on the Academy’s website, and agrees to promptly remove any inaccessible content once the Academy becomes aware of such content. This procedure should direct administrators and staff to ensure that any Academy acquisition or use of Online Content provided or developed by third parties (e.g. vendors, video-sharing websites such as YouTube, or other open sources) that the Academy chooses to make available on its website will be accessible, except where doing so would impose a fundamental alteration or undue financial and administrative burdens. When fundamental alteration or undue financial and administrative burden defenses apply, the Academy will provide equally effective alternative access. In providing equally effective alternate access, the Academy will 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, alternatives are not required to produce the identical result, 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.

For any technology-related requirement in this Agreement for which the Academy asserts undue financial and administrative burdens or a fundamental alteration defense, such assertion may only be made by the principal or by an individual designated by the Academy Board President (“certifying official”) who has budgetary authority after considering all resources available for use in the funding and operation of the service, program, or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion, including the cost of meeting the requirement and the available funding and other resources. The written statement will be certified by the certifying official. If such a determination is made, the certifying official will describe in the written statement how it will provide equally effective alternate access, *i.e.*, other action that would not 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 Academy as their nondisabled peers;

- d. provide for annual training of the Website Accessibility Coordinator and any staff (e.g. administrators, faculty, support staff, student employees) responsible for creating or distributing information with Online Content to students, employees, and guests with disabilities, including, but not limited to, training on the Web Accessibility Policy and their roles and responsibilities to ensure that web design, documents, and multimedia content are accessible. The training will be facilitated, in whole or in part, by an individual with sufficient knowledge, skill, and experience to understand and employ the technical standard(s) adopted by the Academy. With regard to staff who have already

been fully trained at least once on the Web Accessibility Policy, the annual-training requirement can be satisfied by disseminating notice that includes the Web Accessibility Policy (*e.g.*, via email with a link to the Policy), highlights any Policy updates, and provides the name and contact information for the Web Accessibility Coordinator to serve as a resource for staff with questions about the accessibility of Online Content;

- e. provide for an accessibility audit (Audit) to be completed initially and thereafter annually under the direction of the Web Accessibility Coordinator, during which information provided by the Academy through its Online Content is measured against the technical standard(s) adopted in the Web Accessibility Policy. All problems identified through the Audit will be documented, evaluated, and, if necessary, remediated within a reasonable period of time; and
- f. inform students, prospective students, employees, and guests that they may report violations of the technical standard(s) used by the Academy, file a formal complaint through its Section 504 and Title II grievance procedure, and/or contact the Web Accessibility Coordinator with any accessibility concerns. The Web Accessibility Policy will include the name and/or title, office address and telephone number, and email address of the Web Accessibility Coordinator.

Reporting Requirement: By July 31, 2017, the Academy will provide for OCR’s review and approval the Web Accessibility Policy drafted consistent with Item 1.

- 2. Within 90 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the Academy’s Web Accessibility Policy, the Academy will post the Web Accessibility Policy in a logical and readily identifiable location on its website and will provide notification to students, prospective students, employees, and guests. The notification will occur by written correspondence, email, and/or website notification and will further provide information on where the Web Accessibility Policy is located on the Academy’s website and, alternatively, where individuals may request or obtain a copy of such document.

Reporting Requirement: Within 90 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the Academy’s Web Accessibility Policy, the Academy will provide documentation to OCR verifying its implementation of Item 2, including a copy of the notification(s) and the URL (web address[es]) for the location of its Web Accessibility Policy.

- 3. Within 180 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the Academy’s Web Accessibility Policy, the Academy will complete an initial Audit to examine whether information provided through Online Content is currently accessible, measured against the technical standard(s) adopted by the Web Accessibility Policy. The Academy will document the results of the Audit. If the Academy’s audit reveals that Online Content on the Academy’s website is not accessible, as measured against the technical standards identified in the Web Accessibility Policy, the Academy will develop a corrective action strategy based on the audit findings that includes relevant timeframes for completion of the corrective action strategy.

Reporting Requirement: Within 180 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the Academy’s Web Accessibility Policy, the Academy will provide to OCR for review and approval a copy of its Audit report and corrective action strategy, if necessary, including the timeline for implementation of the corrective action strategy. The Academy will also submit to the OCR, the credentials of a third-party web accessibility consultant or employee of the Academy with sufficient knowledge, skill, and experience to understand and employ the technical standard(s) adopted by the Academy that will be certifying (pursuant to Item 4 below) that the Academy’s Online Content on the Academy’s website meets the technical requirements adopted in the Web Accessibility Policy.

4. Within 60 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the corrective action strategy, including the timeline for implementation of the corrective action strategy and the credentials of the Academy’s consultant or responsible employee described above, the Academy will begin implementation of the corrective action strategy to make its Online Content accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Reporting Requirements: Within 180 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the corrective action strategy, the Academy will submit documentation to OCR confirming implementation of the corrective action strategy consistent with established timeframes, including certification to OCR that its Online Content meets the technical requirements adopted in the Web Accessibility Policy. The Academy will also provide to OCR the bases for this certification including copies of any accessibility evaluation or report, dates of correction actions, and copies of any reports from interim audits conducted pursuant to the Web Accessibility Policy.

5. Within 90 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the Academy’s Web Accessibility Policy, the Academy will provide training on how to ensure compliance with the Policy. The training will be facilitated, in whole or in part, by an individual with sufficient knowledge, skill and experience to understand and employ the technical standard(s) adopted by the Academy in its Policy. The training will be provided to all staff involved in web design and implementation, including but not limited to administrators, teachers, staff, and volunteers who develop content for online instruction and/or post material displayed on Academy webpage(s)/Academy portal(s). The training will include, at a minimum, training on the Web Accessibility Policy and the roles and responsibilities of Academy staff to ensure that web design, documents, course content, and multimedia videos or content comply with the Policy requirements.

Reporting Requirement: Within 90 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the Academy’s Web Accessibility Policy, the Academy will provide to OCR the name(s) and credentials of the individual(s) who conducted the training; a list of individuals, by name and title, who attended the training; and a copy of any training materials (e.g., pamphlets, presentation materials).

General Requirements

The Academy understands that OCR will not close the monitoring of this Agreement until OCR determines that the Academy has fulfilled the terms of this Agreement and is in compliance with Section 504 and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. § 104.4, and Title II and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.130 and 35.160, which were at issue in this complaint.

The Academy understands that, by signing this Agreement, it agrees to provide data and other information in a timely manner. Further, the Academy understands that during the monitoring of this Agreement OCR may visit the Academy, interview staff, and request such additional reports or data as are necessary for OCR to determine whether the Academy has fulfilled the terms of this Agreement and is in compliance with Section 504 and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. § 104.4, and Title II and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.130 and 35.160.

The Academy understands and acknowledges that OCR may initiate administrative enforcement or judicial proceedings to enforce the specific terms and obligations of this Agreement. Before initiating administrative enforcement (34 C.F.R. §§ 100.9, 100.10) or judicial proceedings to enforce this Agreement, OCR shall give the Academy written notice of the alleged breach and sixty (60) calendar days to cure the alleged breach.

/s/

6/27/2017

Ehrlich Crain, Academy Board President

Date

/s/

5/25/2017

Scott Landry, Manager, Y-Education Services, L3C

Date