

Accessibility

What is Accessibility?

Accessibility is the ability to access and benefit from a system or entity. It focuses on enabling access for people with disabilities, often through assistive technology and devices. Accessibility is shaped by what we need to do, our interactions with the environment, and our personal preferences.



Diversity

Individuals with disabilities add unique perspectives to learning and workplace diversity. Exposure to people from a variety of backgrounds plays an important part in a student's social development, since school is often their first sustained contact with the outside world.

Educational materials are accessible if...

People who require these materials are able to obtain the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as people who do not require them.



Equity

Accessible technology allows people with health conditions or impairments to participate in regular activities. An example would be Accessible Educational Materials (AEMs), which are written print and technology-based education materials designed or enhanced in a way that makes them usable across the widest range of learning variability.

AEMs Accessible Educational Materials

Accessible formats provide the same information in another form to address barriers that text-based materials can present for some learners. Audio, braille and large print are some accessible format examples. This assistive technology allows students who require them to participate in activities in the same way that their peers can.



Inclusion

Accessibility means that we prioritize the design of teaching and learning experiences so they include and benefit all students. These materials and spaces should also be made accessible to parents who may also require them. All students need to have the opportunity to receive the same educational experience.

Benefits of Inclusion & Accessibility for Students

- Friendships
- Increased social interactions, relationships, and networks
- Peer role models for academic, social, and behavioral skills.
- Increased achievement of IEP goals.
- Greater access to the general curriculum.
- Enhanced skill acquisition and generalization.

Support Accessibility Initiatives in School Districts

Encourage schools to make buildings accessible. This includes creating large doorways, installing visual fire alarms, adding ramps, and providing accessible bathroom facilities. Also, make sure that schools are using respectful language. Hold your district's school board accountable! Learn more from LISSA here:

