# Accessible Information Policy

## University Commitment

The University of Houston-Clear Lake is committed to the fundamental academic principles of equity and accessibility. The aim of this policy is to support an inclusive academic environment by developing, procuring, maintaining, and using accessible electronic and information resources that conform to statewide EIR accessibility law and administrative rules. The University will achieve this goal by endorsing a policy on Electronic Information Resources (EIR) Accessibility use.

## Policy

The University shall make electronic information resources (EIR) accessible to students, employees and the public as required by the [Americans with Disability Act As Amended 2008](http://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm) and the [Texas Government Code 2054, Subchapter M](http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.2054.htm#2054.451). Media purchased and used at the University shall be accessible. This policy applies to all electronic information resources. The University will provide individuals with disabilities alternate methods of access, if an exception is approved by the President or designee of the University.

## Definitions

**Accessibility** strategies, guidelines, and resources to help make the EIR accessible to people with disabilities. EIR accessibility means that people with disabilities can perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with EIR. Accessible EIR that can be used in a variety of ways and that does not depend on a single sense or ability.

**Department of Information Resources (DIR)** provides statewide leadership and oversight for management of government information and communications technology

**Electronic Information Resources (EIR)**

Electronic and Information Resources (EIR) accessibility means providing electronic information and services through multiple ways so that communication is not contingent on a single sense or ability.

(<http://dir.texas.gov/View-Resources/Pages/Content.aspx?id=36>)

**Media,** for the purposes of this policy, includes: VHS video, DVD, digitally streamed video files using web based applications, and any other format that includes an audio and/or visual component.

**Accessible Information Policy – Resources**

**Laws & Regulations**

[Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008](http://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm) – The ADAAA is a comprehensive federal law that provides individuals with disabilities equal access to and non-discrimination from a variety of opportunities afforded to the American people, including, but not limited to, employment, public services and private entities that offer public accommodations and services.

[Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](http://www.section508.gov/section508-laws) – In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities.

[Texas Department of Information Resources](http://dir.texas.gov/) – The purpose of the Electronic and Information Resources (EIR) Accessibility Policy is to guide the Department of Information Resources in its compliance with accessibility rules in accordance with the Texas Administrative Code, Title 1, Chapters 206 and 213.

[Texas Administrative Code 206](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=1&pt=10&ch=206&rl=70) – This chapter describes the website accessibility standards State Institutions of Higher Education.

[Texas Administrative Code 213](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=1&pt=10&ch=213&sch=C&rl=Y) – This chapter describes the accessibility standards for Electronic and Information Resources for Institutions of Higher Education.

[Texas Government Code 2054, Subchapter M](http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.2054.htm#2054.451) – This subchapter provides state regulations to access to electronic information and resources by individuals with disabilities.

**Relevant Cases**

The following schools have been sued by the Department of Justice, the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights, the National Federation of the Blind, or National Federation of the Deaf because they have had inaccessible websites, course management systems, and/or electronic information and technology.

[Florida State University](http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-reaches-settlement-florida-state-university)

[Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/13/education/harvard-and-mit-sued-over-failing-to-caption-online-courses.html?_r=0)

[Louisiana Tech University](http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-settles-louisiana-tech-university-over-inaccessible-course-materials)

[Pennsylvania State University](http://accessibility.psu.edu/nfbpsusettlement/)

University of Cincinnati

University of Montana

[University of Montana-Missoula](http://athenpro.org/sites/default/files/Univ_Montana_Missoula_FinalAgreement10_2014.pdf)

[South Carolina Technical College System](file:///\\b3308-adm\Health%20and%20Disability\Disability%20Services\Legal%20Docs%20and%20Resources\Cases\SCTCS%20case.doc)

Youngstown State University

**Accessible Website Design**

[Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/) – The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) has standards, recommendations, and guidelines for developing accessible material. WCAG 2.0, the current standard, covers a wide range of recommendations for making Web content more accessible. Following these guidelines will make content accessible to a wider range of people with disabilities, including blindness and low vision, deafness and hearing loss, learning disabilities, cognitive limitations, limited movement, speech disabilities, photosensitivity and combinations of these. Following these guidelines will also often make your Web content more usable to users in general.

[Web Accessibility In Mind (WebAIM)](http://webaim.org/about/) – WebAIM is committed to the development and proliferation of accessible web content and technologies worldwide. WebAIM's mission is to expand the potential of the web for people with disabilities by providing the knowledge, technical skills, tools, organizational leadership strategies, and vision that empower organizations to make their own content accessible to people with disabilities.