

Section 508 Standards for Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility

Electronic and information technologies (EIT) are a significant means by which Glendale Community College District provides information to students, faculty, staff and other constituents. The need to ensure accessibility to all members of the campus community becomes critical as more administrative services and learning environments are based on EIT. It is also a part of the district's ongoing commitment to establishing a barrier free learning community, or universal access, to all students.

Individuals with disabilities are guaranteed access to educational institutions and systems of communication under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Amendments to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act clarify accessibility requirements for EIT developed, procured, maintained, or used by federal agencies. SB105 and SB 302 adopt these same requirements. Furthermore, California Government Code Section 11135 (d.) states the following:

- (2) In order to improve accessibility of existing technology, and therefore increase the successful employment of individuals with disabilities, particularly blind and visually impaired and deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, state governmental entities, in developing, procuring, maintaining, or using electronic or information technology, either indirectly or through the use of state funds by other entities, shall comply with the accessibility requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794d), and regulations implementing that act as set forth in Part 1194 of Title 36 of the Federal Code of Regulations
- (3) Any entity that contracts with a state or local entity subject to this section for the provision of electronic or information technology or for the provision of related services shall agree to respond to, and resolve any complaint regarding accessibility of its products or services that is brought to the attention of the entity.

As mandated by federal and state laws and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, it is necessary that the Glendale Community College District comply with Section 508 Standards to ensure accessibility to EIT for individuals with disabilities.

Adopted: 3/20/06