

General Institution

AR 3411 ACCESSIBILITY OF ELECTRONIC AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

References:

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S. Code, Section 794d);
36 CFR, Sections 1194.1, et seq.;
Government Code, Section 11135;
Title 5, Sections 59300, et seq.

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

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 electronic and information technologies developed, procured, maintained, or used by federal agencies.

The technical standards of Section 508 provide criteria specific to the following technologies:

- a. Software Applications and Operating Systems (1194.21)
- b. Web-based Intranet and Internet Information and Applications (1194.22)
- c. Telecommunications Products (1194.23)
- d. Video and Multimedia Products (1194.24)
- e. Self-contained, Closed Products (1194.25)
- f. Desktop and Portable Computers (1194.26)
- g. Functional Performance Criteria (1194.31)
- h. Other Electronic technologies

Furthermore, California Government Code Section 11135 states the following:

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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.

Also refer to BP 3720 titled Computer and Network Use and AR 3720 titled Information Resource Use. District procedures for obtaining and using electronic and information technology must be followed; refer to AR 6365 Contracts – Accessibility of Information Technology.

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Electronic and information technologies are a means by which Rancho Santiago Community College District provides information to students, faculty, staff, and other constituents. The need to ensure accessibility to all members of the campus community is 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 individuals.

As mandated by federal and state laws and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, it is required that Rancho Santiago Community College District comply with Section 508 Standards to ensure accessibility to EIT for individuals with disabilities. The President/Superintendent or designee shall act to enforce compliance with the accessibility requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794d) and its implementing regulations set forth at Title 36 CFR Part 1194.

Also, refer to BP 3720 titled Computer and Network Use and AR 3720 titled Information Resource Use and AR 6365 Contracts – Accessibility of Information Technology.

AR 6365 CONTRACTS – ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

References:

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S. Code, Section 794d);
36 CFR, Sections 1194.1 et seq.;
Government Code, Section 11135;
Title 5, Sections 59300 et seq.

All information technology-related contracts must address accessibility requirements per 29 U.S. Code, Section 794d.

Whenever the District enters into a contract for the purchase, development, procurement, maintenance, or use of any electronic or information technology, the vendor shall certify that it complies with the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S. Code, Section 794d) and its related regulations. This requirement shall apply to software applications, operating systems, web-based intranet and internet information and applications, telecommunications products, video or multimedia products, self-contained closed products such as copiers, and desktop and portable computers.

Each contract with such a vendor shall contain the following provision:

"The vendor hereby warrants that the products or services to be provided under this agreement comply with the accessibility requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and its implementing regulations. Vendor agrees to respond promptly to and resolve any complaints regarding accessibility of its products or services that are brought to its attention. Vendor further agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the District from and against any claim arising out of its failure to comply with these requirements. Failure to comply with these requirements shall constitute a breach and be grounds for termination of this agreement and/or action for damages."