



Education and Early Childhood Learning

Deputy Minister

Room 162, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0V8

[www.edu.gov.mb.ca](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca)

April 15, 2024

## **Subject: Accessible Information and Communication Standard Regulation – General Update**

As a follow up to the attached memo, the department has an update to share related to the newest standard under the Accessibility for Manitobans Act.

Despite the Accessible Information and Communication Standard Regulation coming into force May 1, 2022, the compliance dates for this standard are:

- May 1, 2024 for all public and independent schools,
- May 1, 2025 for child care facilities with more than one employee, whether located in a school or elsewhere.

The regulation builds on the existing requirements of The Manitoba Human Rights Code and addresses the need for organizations to consider the ways in which Manitobans of all abilities interact with or access information, including websites.

Specific to public and independent schools, there will be some flexibility to the compliance date. This is because the Manitoba Accessibility Office's online training module is not yet available through [the online learning portal](#). It's also recognized that we are entering the busiest time of the K to 12 school year. Staff required to take the training will be encouraged to complete the module in the 2024/25 school year. The accessible information and communication online training module is expected to be available by summer 2024, and you will be notified when it is available.

More information, including webinars about how this standard specifically applies to the K to 12 sector will be shared once available. The department will also host an information session and an invitation will be forthcoming.

For early learning and child care facilities, you will be informed once the training is available and communications and information sessions will be arranged. Although the compliance date for your sector is May 1, 2025, planning should begin early.

For both sectors, once the training is available, the following staff must take it:

- staff who communicate with the public or with stakeholders on behalf of your organization.
- staff who maintain your website and web content.

- staff who purchase or procure information technology.
- staff who develop and implement your organization's policies, practices and procedures related to accessible information and communication.

Lastly, to learn more about what this means for your organization, please review the resource listing below.

**Preparation Resources:**

For general information on The Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its regulations, as well as tips for creating accessible documents, visit [the Manitoba Accessibility Office website](#).

For information on the Information and Communication Standard and how to comply, examine these tools and resources:

- [Introduction to the Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions: Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication](#)
- [Checklist for Educational Institutions: The Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication](#)
- [Checklist for Libraries: The Accessibility Standard for Information and Communication](#)

If you have any questions about this standard, please contact the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat at 204-792-0263 or [accessibilitycompliance@gov.mb.ca](mailto:accessibilitycompliance@gov.mb.ca).

Thank you for your attention and continued efforts to remove and prevent barriers to accessible information and communication in Manitoba.

Sincerely,



Brian O'Leary  
Deputy Minister  
Education and  
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This communication is available in alternate formats on request. To request an alternate format, please email [meecl-accessibility@gov.mb.ca](mailto:meecl-accessibility@gov.mb.ca) or call (204) 914-5378.