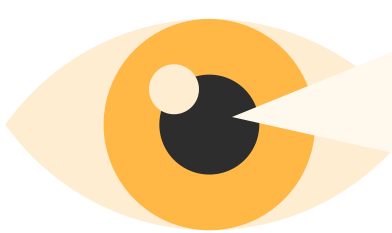# Accessibility matters

7.3 m
students have a disability or learning delay.

1 in 25
students have trouble distinguishing colors due to color blindness.

98.6%
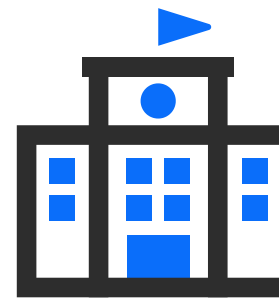of the top million websites had WCAG compliance failures.

3
states have passed laws requiring K-12 digital tools be WCAG 2.1 AA compliant: Illinois, Maryland, and New Jersey.

ONLY 14%
of the materials teachers source from the internet to supplement core materials support low-performing students, those with disabilities or English Language Learners.

3 ways to be an accessibility advocate in your district.

1 Create a culture of inclusion in your classroom.

☐ Use teaching tools that are designed to support all learners when creating your own lesson materials.

☐ Make instruction flexible for all learners by supporting a variety of learning modalities in lessons.

☐ Talk about differing abilities with students, and highlight the contributions of people with disabilities in the world.

☐ Engage with families and the community and encourage them to contact school leaders or speak up at school board meetings about accessibility needs.

2 Be vocal about accessibility needs to colleagues and school leaders.

☐ Familiarize yourself with common assistive technologies, how they work, and share learnings with colleagues.

☐ Highlight your classroom-level successes and the day-to-day impact on learning.

☐ Advocate for implementing more accessible materials when leaders are making purchasing decisions, especially from vendors that meet WCAG AA standards.

3 Evaluate your instructional materials using the POUR principles.

☐ Perceivable - All users can use senses to interact with the web page.

☐ Operable - All users can operate interactive features.

☐ Understandable - Plain language and consistent elements are used.

☐ Robust - Content is compatible with web browsers & assistive technologies.

WCAG is the gold standard in accessibility.

Using materials that meet WCAG AA standards means more equitable and inclusive experiences for the greatest number of students in your classroom.

To learn more about Newsela or WCAG compliance, visit www.newsela.com/about/wcag.

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LEARNING ENABLED