# 29.01.04 Accessibility of Electronic and Information Resources

Revised <u>February 16, 2023</u> Next Scheduled Review: February 16, 2028 Click to view <u>Revision History</u>.



# **Regulation Summary**

This regulation provides guidance to The Texas A&M University System (system) members to ensure compliance with accessibility requirements for Electronic and Information Resources (EIR) as specified in 1 Texas Administrative code, Ch 206, *State Websites* (TAC 206,) and Ch. 213, *Electronic and Information Resources* (TAC 213) and Texas Government Code 2054, Section M.

### **Definitions**

Click to view **Definitions**.

## Regulation

#### 1. EIR ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND COORDINATOR

- 1.1 Each member must comply with the EIR accessibility requirements specified in state law for any EIR that the member develops, procures or materially changes through a procured services contract, and all EIR services provided to the member through hosted or managed services contracts.
- 1.2 Each member chief executive officer (CEO) or designee must designate an EIR accessibility coordinator.
  - 1.2.1 In the absence of a designated EIR accessibility coordinator, the member chief information officer (CIO) serves in this capacity.
  - 1.2.2 The designated EIR accessibility coordinator is responsible for facilitating the member's EIR accessibility compliance and practices in support of the member's accessibility policy and ensuring compliance with this regulation.
- 1.3 Each member is responsible for determining the appropriate alternate formats and/or alternate methods for an EIR that does not meet the requirements of 1 Tex. Admin. Code, Ch. 206, *State Websites* (TAC 206), and Ch. 213, *Electronic and Information Resources* (TAC 213).

#### 2. EIR PLANS

Each member must develop, implement, and maintain a plan by which EIR is brought into and maintained in compliance with the specifications and standards of TAC 206 and TAC 213, including a process for corrective actions to remediate non-compliant items.

#### 3. WEBSITES, WEB PAGES and WEB APPLICATIONS

Member websites, web pages, and web applications, whether procured or developed, must comply with TAC 206 specifications and standards for web accessibility.

#### 4. EIR PROCUREMENT

- 4.1 Each member must comply with TAC 213 specifications and standards when procuring EIR
- 4.2 Members must implement a procurement accessibility policy, and supporting business processes and contract terms, for making procurement decisions in compliance with the EIR accessibility requirements.
- 4.3 The procurement standards and processes related to this regulation apply whenever a contract or other acquisition document requires a vendor to:
  - (a) provide an EIR to a member for use;
  - (b) develop an EIR for a member; or
  - (c) change an EIR for member use.

#### 5. EXCEPTIONS TO ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 Exceptions to the EIR accessibility requirements may be approved by the respective member CEO or designee(s) under certain conditions provided for in TAC 206, TAC 213 and Tex. Gov't Code 2054 Subchapter M.
  - 5.1.1 The number of designees and the scope of each delegation of authority to such designees is determined at the sole discretion of each member CEO, whether the exception requests involve EIR used for academic purposes and/or non-academic purposes.
  - 5.1.2 Each member must develop and implement a process for reviewing and approving exception requests that includes maintaining a record of approved exceptions.
- 5.2 At the system level, the chancellor or designee may approve system-wide exceptions for EIR obtained through shared services contracts.
  - 5.2.1 Members may utilize system-approved exceptions at their discretion; or
  - 5.2.2 Members may execute member-specific exceptions approved by the member CEO or designee.

# Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Texas Labor Code Chapter 21. Employment Discrimination

Tex. Gov't. Code 2054, Subchapter M., Access to Electronic and Information Resources by Individuals with Disabilities

1 Tex. Admin. Code Ch. 206, Institution of Higher Education Websites

1 Tex. Admin. Code Ch. 213, Accessibility Standards for Institutions of Higher Education

# **Member Rule Requirements**

A rule is not required to supplement this regulation.

#### **Contact Office**

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