DECEMBER 2025 COMMUNICATIONS REPORT
Submitted by Marci Orr, APR
Director of Communications

ACCESSIBILITY AND DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS

Background: On April 24, 2024, the Federal Register published the Department of Justice's (Department) final rule updating its regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The final rule has specific requirements about how to ensure that web content and mobile applications (apps) are accessible to people with disabilities.

Why these services are important. We provide services, programs, activities through our app, our website, PDFs, Canva graphics, etc. The new rule aims to ensure all students with disabilities can equitably access educational materials and participate in school programs. There is also a legal obligation to comply with ADA for public school systems. Districts risk federal non-compliance investigations.

Key Requirements include:
Websites & Portals. ParentSquare and SmartSites (our provider) are ADA-compliant.
Mobile Apps: ParentSquare is compliant. I'll be looking at the other district-approved apps: SchoolCafe, BusRight, and Infinite Campus.
Electronic Documents: This includes PDFs, flyers, newsletters, forms, reports. All documents posted online and digitally must be accessible. Ironically, this board report is not accessible as a PDF. We are looking at solutions to change the way the board reports are entered in Simbli to comply with the standards.
Testing & Learning Platforms. Digital platforms for testing, grading, and learning management systems must be fully accessible, ensuring students with disabilities have equal access.
Social Media: Posts and digital outreach are included in this ruling.

- Alt text for images
- Captions for video clips
- Color contrast for posts
- Plain, clear text must go with graphics in the caption

What's next? Superintendents and school communications associations at the state and national levels are working with schools to provide information to help districts develop plans. In Mexico, we will begin by establishing an accessibility committee to review our platforms and ensure we're on track to meet the April 2027 federal deadline.