# VPAT & Accessibility

# What is VPAT?

**VPAT = A Report Card for Accessibility**

**V**oluntary **P**roduct **A**ccessibility **T**emplate

**Imagine a checklist:**

- ✅ Can blind students use the app?
- ✅ Can deaf students use the app?
- ✅ Can students who can't use a mouse navigate it?
- ✅ Can students with learning disabilities understand it?

**VPAT is our answer sheet showing we checked YES to all of these.**

# Why Schools Care (The Legal Part)

**It's Federal Law - Not Optional**

**Three Laws Schools Must Follow:**

1. **Section 508** (Federal) - Government & schools must buy accessible tech
2. **ADA** (Americans with Disabilities Act) - No discrimination
3. **WCAG 2.1 Level AA** - The technical standard (like a building code, but for websites)

**What This Means:**

- Schools can get FINED if they use non-accessible software
- Districts are asking vendors: "Prove you're accessible"
- Without proof = No contract

# The Three Types of Students We Support

**Who Benefits from Accessibility?**

1. 👁 **Vision Disabilities**

   - Blind students (use screen readers that "read" the screen aloud)
   - Low vision students (need high contrast, large text)

2. 👂 **Hearing Disabilities**

   - Deaf students (need captions, visual alerts instead of sounds)

3. 🖱 **Motor/Physical Disabilities**

   - Students who can't use a mouse (navigate with keyboard only)
   - Students with tremors (need large click targets)

**Plus:** Students with dyslexia, ADHD, autism - accessibility helps everyone learn better.

# How FundraisingU Is Already Accessible

**We Built It Right From Day One - Mobile-First**

**Important Context:** Students use this platform on their phones.

Our accessibility is designed for how students actually use the platform: on mobile devices while entering donor contacts, checking progress, and managing their fundraising on the go.

**Not a "feature we added later" - It's in the foundation:**

- ✅ **Bootstrap 5 Framework** - Accessible design that adapts to any screen size
- ✅ **DevExpress Enterprise Components** - Professional-grade mobile accessibility
- ✅ **Mobile-Responsive Design** - Works on phones, tablets, and computers
- ✅ **Touch-Friendly Navigation** - Large tap targets (44x44px minimum) for easy mobile use
- ✅ **Mobile Screen Readers** - Works with iPhone VoiceOver and Android TalkBack
- ✅ **Gesture Support** - Swipe, tap, and pinch work for students with motor disabilities
- ✅ **High Contrast Design** - Readable on bright phone screens or in sunlight

**Translation:** We used professional tools with accessibility baked in and designed specifically for mobile-first student use.

# The Technical Standards We Meet

**WCAG 2.1 Level AA - What Does That Mean?**

**Think of it like safety ratings for cars:**

- Level A = Basic safety (airbags)
- Level AA = Advanced safety (backup cameras, lane assist) ← **WE ARE HERE**
- Level AAA = Maximum safety (every possible feature)

**Schools require Level AA - and that's exactly what we provide.**

**Translation:** We meet the industry-standard "good enough for government work" level.

# Common Myths vs. Reality

**Let's Clear Up Misconceptions**

**MYTH:** "Accessibility is just for blind people"
**REALITY:** It helps students with vision, hearing, motor, and cognitive disabilities - plus it makes the platform easier for everyone.

**MYTH:** "We can add accessibility later"
**REALITY:** Retrofitting is expensive and incomplete. We built it in from day one.

**MYTH:** "Accessibility makes websites look ugly"
**REALITY:** Our platform is modern and attractive AND accessible. They're not mutually exclusive.

**MYTH:** "Only big schools care about this"
**REALITY:** Federal law applies to ALL public schools regardless of size. Even small districts must comply.

**MYTH:** "If we don't have disabled students, we don't need it"
**REALITY:** Schools must be prepared for ANY student. It's the law.