



Essential Skills Accessibility Conformance Report WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.4)

Name of Product/Version: Essential Skills

Report Date:

June 6, 2025

Product Description:

Essential Skills web-based instructional programs are designed to build foundational literacy and numeracy skills for early learners. The software is delivered as a browser-based HTML5 application accessible on desktop and laptop computers. The software includes interactive lessons, practice activities, and assessments.

The programs feature audio narration, visual cues, and immediate feedback to support student engagement and learning. They are primarily designed for teacher-facilitated use in classroom and intervention settings, but can also be used independently by students.

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Notes:

This report was prepared for Poudre School District

Evaluation Methods Used:

Essential Skills was evaluated using Chrome v. 137.0.7151.69 on a Windows 10 desktop computer.

Applicable Standards/Guidelines

This report covers the degree of conformance for the following accessibility standard/guidelines:

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)

Terms

The terms used in the Conformance Level information are defined as follows:

- **Supports:** The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.
- **Partially Supports:** Some functionality of the product does not meet the criteria.
- **Does Not Support:** The majority of product functionality does not meet the criteria.
- **Not Applicable:** The criterion is not relevant to the product.
- **Not Evaluated:** The product has not been evaluated against the criterion. This can be used only in WCAG 2.0 Level AAA.

WCAG 2.1 Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.1 Success Criteria, the criteria are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the [WCAG 2.1 Conformance Requirements](#).

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A) All non-text content that is presented to the user has a text alternative that serves the equivalent purpose, except for the situations listed below. • Controls, Input: If non-text content is a control or accepts user input, then it has a name that describes its purpose. (Refer to Success Criterion 4.1.2 for additional requirements for controls and content that accepts user input.) • Time-Based Media: If non-text content is time-based media, then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content. (Refer to Guideline 1.2 for additional requirements for media.) • Test: If non-text content is a test or exercise that would be invalid if presented in text, then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content. • Sensory: If non-text content is primarily intended to create a specific sensory experience, then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content. • CAPTCHA: If the purpose of non-text content is to confirm that content is being accessed by a person rather than a computer, then text alternatives that identify and describe the purpose of the non-text content are provided, and alternative forms of CAPTCHA using output modes for different types of sensory perception are provided to accommodate different disabilities. • Decoration, Formatting, Invisible: If non-text content is pure decoration, is used only for visual formatting, or is not presented to users, then it is implemented in a way that it can be ignored by assistive technology.	Partially Supports	The product includes text alternatives for most interface images and icons, and decorative graphics are generally implemented to be ignored by assistive technologies. However, some time-based media does not have accompanying transcripts or descriptive text. Limited testing has been conducted to confirm that all controls have appropriate accessible names. Further review and remediation are needed to ensure consistent conformance across all content types.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A) For prerecorded audio-only and prerecorded video-only media, the following are true, except when the audio or video is a media alternative for text and is clearly labeled as such: • Prerecorded Audio-only: An alternative for time-based media is provided that presents equivalent information for prerecorded audio-only content. • Prerecorded Video-only: Either an alternative for time-based media or an audio track is provided that presents equivalent information for prerecorded video-only content.	Does Not Support	The product includes prerecorded audio content (instructional narration). Equivalent text alternatives or transcripts are not consistently provided for this content. No prerecorded video-only content is used in the product. Additional development is needed to provide text alternatives for all audio-only materials.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A) Captions are provided for all prerecorded audio content in synchronized media, except when the media is a media alternative for text and is clearly labeled as such.	Not Applicable	The site does not contain prerecorded, synchronized media.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A) Captions are provided for all live audio content in synchronized media.	Not Applicable	The site does not contain prerecorded video content that would require audio description or a media alternative.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A) Information, structure, and relationships conveyed through presentation can be programmatically determined or are available in text.	Partially Supports	The product provides some semantic markup to convey structure and relationships (e.g., headings and lists). Certain interface elements and instructional content may rely on visual formatting without appropriate programmatic labels or associations. Additional evaluation and remediation are needed to ensure all information, structure, and relationships are consistently available to assistive technologies.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A) When the sequence in which content is presented affects its meaning, a correct reading sequence can be programmatically determined.	Supports	Most instructional content is presented in a logical reading order. Some screens rely on visual layout techniques that may not ensure the correct sequence is programmatically determined. Further evaluation and remediation are necessary to confirm consistent reading order across all content areas.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A) Instructions provided for understanding and operating content do not rely solely on sensory characteristics of components such as shape, color, size, visual location, orientation, or sound. <i>Note:</i> For requirements related to color, refer to Guideline 1.4.	Partially Supports	Instructions generally do not rely solely on sensory characteristics such as shape or color. However, some interface elements and instructional materials may reference visual location or color without an accompanying text description. Further review is planned to ensure all instructions are perceivable without reliance on sensory characteristics alone.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A) Color is not used as the only visual means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element. <i>Note:</i> This success criterion addresses color perception specifically. Other forms of perception are covered in Guideline 1.3 including programmatic access to color and other visual presentation coding.	Partially Supports	Color is used to convey meaning in certain parts of the interface (e.g., correct/incorrect feedback). In most cases, text labels or icons are also present, but some instances may not provide sufficient non-color cues. Additional evaluation and remediation are required to ensure information is not conveyed by color alone.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A) Color is not used as the only visual means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element. <i>Note:</i> This success criterion addresses color perception specifically. Other forms of perception are covered in Guideline 1.3 including programmatic access to color and other visual presentation coding.	Does Not Support	The product includes prerecorded audio instructions without independent volume controls or mechanisms to stop, pause, or adjust the audio playback. Users must rely on system-level audio controls. Enhancements are needed to provide user-accessible audio control within the application interface.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A) All functionality of the content is operable through a keyboard interface without requiring specific timings for individual keystrokes, except where the underlying function requires input that depends on the path of the user's movement and not just the endpoints. <i>Note 1:</i> This exception relates to the underlying function, not the input technique. For example, if using handwriting to enter text, the input technique (handwriting) requires path-dependent input but the underlying function (text input) does not. <i>Note 2:</i> This does not forbid and should not discourage providing mouse input or other input methods in addition to keyboard operation.	Partially Supports	Most functionality is operable via keyboard navigation. Certain interactive elements may not be fully accessible without a mouse, and consistent focus indicators have not been fully verified across all activities. Additional assessment and remediation are planned to ensure complete keyboard operability.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A) If keyboard focus can be moved to a component of the page using a keyboard interface, then focus can be moved away from that component using only a keyboard interface, and, if it requires more than unmodified arrow or tab keys or other standard exit methods, the user is advised of the method for moving focus away. <i>Note:</i> Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether it is used to meet other success criteria or not) must meet this success criterion. See Conformance Requirement 5: Non-Interference.	Partially Supports	The product uses standard HTML5 navigation. No custom keyboard controls are implemented. Comprehensive testing has not been conducted to verify that focus can always be moved away from all interactive elements using only the keyboard.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 only) If a keyboard shortcut is implemented in content using only letter (including upper- and lower-case letters), punctuation, number, or symbol characters, then at least one of the following is true: • Turn off: A mechanism is available to turn the shortcut off; • Remap: A mechanism is available to remap the shortcut to include one or more non-printable keyboard keys (e.g., Ctrl, Alt); • Active only on focus: The keyboard shortcut for a user interface component is only active when that component has focus.	Not Applicable	The product does not implement any character key shortcuts.

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2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A) For each time limit that is set by the content, at least one of the following is true: • Turn off: The user is allowed to turn off the time limit before encountering it; or • Adjust: The user is allowed to adjust the time limit before encountering it over a wide range that is at least ten times the length of the default setting; or • Extend: The user is warned before time expires and given at least 20 seconds to extend the time limit with a simple action (for example, "press the space bar"), and the user is allowed to extend the time limit at least ten times; or • Real-time Exception: The time limit is a required part of a real-time event (for example, an auction), and no alternative to the time limit is possible; or • Essential Exception: The time limit is essential and extending it would invalidate the activity; or • 20 Hour Exception: The time limit is longer than 20 hours.	Not Applicable	The product does not impose any time limits on user interactions.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A) For moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating information, all of the following are true: • Moving, blinking, scrolling: For any moving, blinking or scrolling information that (1) starts automatically, (2) lasts more than five seconds, and (3) is presented in parallel with other content, there is a mechanism for the user to pause, stop, or hide it unless the movement, blinking, or scrolling is part of an activity where it is essential; and • Auto-updating: For any auto-updating information that (1) starts automatically and (2) is presented in parallel with other content, there is a mechanism for the user to pause, stop, or hide it or to control the frequency of the update unless the auto-updating is part of an activity where it is essential. <i>Note 1:</i> For requirements related to flickering or flashing content, refer to Guideline 2.3. <i>Note 2:</i> Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether it is used to meet other success criteria or not) must meet this success criterion. See Conformance Requirement 5: Non-Interference. <i>Note 3:</i> Content that is updated periodically by software or that is streamed to the user agent is not required to preserve or present information that is generated or received between the initiation of the pause and resuming presentation, as this may not be technically possible, and in many situations could be misleading to do so. <i>Note 4:</i> An animation that occurs as part of a preload phase or similar situation can be considered essential if interaction cannot occur during that phase for all users and if not indicating progress could confuse users or cause them to think that content was frozen or broken.	Not Applicable	The site does not include elements that move, blink, scroll, or auto-update.

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2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A) Web pages do not contain anything that flashes more than three times in any one second period, or the flash is below the general flash and red flash thresholds. <i>Note:</i> Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether it is used to meet other success criteria or not) must meet this success criterion. See Conformance Requirement 5: Non-Interference.	Not Applicable	The site does not contain flashing content.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A) A mechanism is available to bypass blocks of content that are repeated on multiple Web pages.	Does Not Support	The product does not currently provide mechanisms (e.g., skip links or ARIA landmarks) to bypass repeated blocks of content. Enhancements are needed to meet this requirement.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A) Web pages have titles that describe topic or purpose.	Partially Supports	Most pages include a descriptive title element. A complete review is required to verify that all pages consistently provide accurate and unique titles.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A) If a Web page can be navigated sequentially and the navigation sequences affect meaning or operation, focusable components receive focus in an order that preserves meaning and operability.	Partially Supports	The product uses standard HTML navigation. However, comprehensive testing has not been conducted to confirm that focus order is logical and consistent across all screens and interactive elements.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A) The purpose of each link can be determined from the link text alone or from the link text together with its programmatically determined link context, except where the purpose of the link would be ambiguous to users in general.	Partially Supports	Most links include descriptive text or sufficient contextual information to convey their purpose. A complete audit is needed to confirm that all links are clear and unambiguous in context.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 only) All functionality that uses multipoint or path-based gestures for operation can be operated with a single pointer without a path-based gesture, unless a multipoint or path-based gesture is essential.	Not Applicable	The product does not implement multipoint or path-based gestures. All functionalities are accessible via simple taps or clicks.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 only) For functionality that can be operated using a single pointer, at least one of the following is true: • No Down-Event: The down-event of the pointer is not used to execute any part of the function; • Abort or Undo: Completion of the function is on the up-event, and a mechanism is available to abort the function before completion or to undo the function after completion; • Up Reversal: The up-event reverses any outcome of the preceding down-event; • Essential: Completing the function on the down-event is essential.	Not Applicable	The product does not include functionality that relies on pointer down events without the possibility of cancellation.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 only) For user interface components with labels that include text or images of text, the name contains the text that is presented visually.	Partially Supports	Most controls use standard HTML labeling. A full assessment has not been completed to verify that all visible labels are included in the accessible names announced by assistive technologies.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 only) Functionality that can be operated by device motion or user motion can also be operated by user interface components and responding to the motion can be disabled to prevent accidental actuation, except when: • Supported Interface: The motion is used to operate functionality through an accessibility supported interface; • Essential: The motion is essential for the function and doing so would invalidate the activity.	Not Applicable	The product does not implement motion actuation or device motion input.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A) The default human language of each Web page can be programmatically determined.	Supports	The default language of the site's webpage is identified using the lang attribute in the html element.
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A) When any user interface component receives focus, it does not initiate a change of context.	Partially Supports	No known instances of significant context changes occurring solely on focus. Further testing is required to verify that focus events do not trigger unexpected navigation or changes in all cases.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A) Changing the setting of any user interface component does not automatically cause a change of context unless the user has been advised of the behavior before using the component.	Partially Supports	Most form submissions and interface updates require explicit user action (e.g., clicking a button). A full evaluation has not been completed to confirm that changes of context do not occur automatically on input without prior notice in all areas of the product.

3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A) If an input error is automatically detected, the item that is in error is identified and the error is described to the user in text.	Supports	Input errors are identified in most cases, but complete testing has not been conducted to verify consistent messaging.
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Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A) Labels or instructions are provided when content requires user input.	Supports	Most fields have labels or instructions. Additional assessment is needed to ensure clarity across all input areas.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A) In content implemented using markup languages, elements have complete start and end tags, elements are nested according to their specifications, elements do not contain duplicate attributes, and any IDs are unique, except where the specifications allow these features. <i>Note:</i> Start and end tags that are missing a critical character in their formation, such as a closing angle bracket or a mismatched attribute value quotation mark are not complete.	Partially Supports	Standard HTML5 markup is used throughout the product. However, comprehensive validation for parsing errors (e.g., duplicate IDs, nesting issues) has not been completed.
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A) For all user interface components (including but not limited to: form elements, links and components generated by scripts), the name and role can be programmatically determined; states, properties, and values that can be set by the user can be programmatically set; and notification of changes to these items is available to user agents, including assistive technologies. <i>Note:</i> This success criterion is primarily for Web authors who develop or script their own user interface components. For example, standard HTML controls already meet this success criterion when used according to specification.	Partially Supports	Most interface components rely on standard HTML elements that expose name, role, and value to assistive technologies. However, additional evaluation is needed to confirm consistent implementation across all interactive elements.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA) Captions are provided for all live audio content in synchronized media.	Not Applicable	The product does not include live audio or video content.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA) Audio description is provided for all prerecorded video content in synchronized media.	Does Not Support	Prerecorded audio content does not include audio description of visual information. No prerecorded video content is used.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 only) Content does not restrict its view and operation to a single display orientation, such as portrait or landscape, unless a specific display orientation is essential.	Supports	The product supports both portrait and landscape orientations.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 only) The purpose of each input field collecting information about the user can be programmatically determined when: • The input field serves a purpose identified in the Input Purposes for User Interface Components section; and • The content is implemented using technologies with support for identifying the expected meaning for form input data.	Does Not Support	Form fields do not currently use autocomplete attributes to identify input purpose for user agents.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA) The visual presentation of text and images of text has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1, except for the following: • Large Text: Large-scale text and images of large-scale text have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1; • Incidental: Text or images of text that are part of an inactive user interface component, that are pure decoration, that are not visible to anyone, or that are part of a picture that contains significant other visual content, have no contrast requirement. • Logotypes: Text that is part of a logo or brand name has no contrast requirement.	Partially Supports	Most text in the site meets minimum contrast requirements.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA) Except for captions and images of text, text can be resized without assistive technology up to 200 percent without loss of content or functionality.	Partially Supports	Text can be resized using browser controls.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA) If the technologies being used can achieve the visual presentation, text is used to convey information rather than images of text except for the following: • Customizable: The image of text can be visually customized to the user's requirements; • Essential: A particular presentation of text is essential to the information being conveyed. <i>Note:</i> Logotypes (text that is part of a logo or brand name) are considered essential.	Partially Supports	Images of text are used in some areas. Text alternatives are provided for most instances. Additional review is needed to confirm no reliance on images of text for essential information.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 only) Content can be presented without loss of information or functionality, and without requiring scrolling in two dimensions for: • Vertical scrolling content at a width equivalent to 320 CSS pixels; • Horizontal scrolling content at a height equivalent to 256 CSS pixels; Except for parts of the content which require two-dimensional layout for usage or meaning.	Does Not Support	The product has not been evaluated to confirm reflow support up to 320 CSS pixels without requiring scrolling in two dimensions.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 only) The visual presentation of the following have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1 against adjacent color(s): • User Interface Components: Visual information required to identify user interface components and states, except for inactive components or where the appearance of the component is determined by the user agent and not modified by the author; • Graphical Objects: Parts of graphics required to understand the content, except when a particular presentation of graphics is essential to the information being conveyed.	Partially Supports	Some icons and interface components meet non-text contrast requirements. A complete assessment is needed to verify compliance across all elements.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 only) In content implemented using markup languages that support the following text style properties, no loss of content or functionality occurs by setting all of the following and by changing no other style property: • Line height (line spacing) to at least 1.5 times the font size; • Spacing following paragraphs to at least 2 times the font size; • Letter spacing (tracking) to at least 0.12 times the font size; • Word spacing to at least 0.16 times the font size. Exception: Human languages and scripts that do not make use of one or more of these text style properties in written text can conform using only the properties that exist for that combination of language and script.	Does Not Support	The product has not been evaluated for compatibility with user-modified text spacing.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 only) Where receiving and then removing pointer hover or keyboard focus triggers additional content to become visible and then hidden, the following are true: • Dismissible: A mechanism is available to dismiss the additional content without moving pointer hover or keyboard focus, unless the additional content communicates an input error or does not obscure or replace other content; • Hoverable: If pointer hover can trigger the additional content, then the pointer can be moved over the additional content without the additional content disappearing; • Persistent: The additional content remains visible until the hover or focus trigger is removed, the user dismisses it, or its information is no longer valid. Exception: The visual presentation of the additional content is controlled by the user agent and is not modified by the author.	Supports	No known instances of hover-triggered content that disappears unexpectedly.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA) More than one way is available to locate a Web page within a set of Web pages except where the Web Page is the result of, or a step in, a process.	Not Applicable	Users can navigate using menus and links. A complete assessment is needed to confirm multiple methods to locate content on all pages.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA) Headings and labels describe topic or purpose.	Partially Supports	Most headings and labels are descriptive.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA) Any keyboard operable user interface has a mode of operation where the keyboard focus indicator is visible.	Partially Supports	Default browser focus indicators are used.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA) The human language of each passage or phrase in the content can be programmatically determined except for proper names, technical terms, words of indeterminate language, and words or phrases that have become part of the vernacular of the immediately surrounding text.	Does Not Support	The product has not been evaluated to confirm correct language attributes for content in multiple languages.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA) Navigational mechanisms that are repeated on multiple Web pages within a set of Web pages occur in the same relative order each time they are repeated, unless a change is initiated by the user.	Partially Supports	Navigation is generally consistent.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA) Components that have the same functionality within a set of Web pages are identified consistently.	Supports	Components that have the same functionality are identified consistently.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA) If an input error is automatically detected and suggestions for correction are known, then the suggestions are provided to the user, unless it would jeopardize the security or purpose of the content.	Supports	When an error is automatically detected in a data entry form, the displayed error message includes suggestions to help the user correct the issue.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA) For Web pages that cause legal commitments or financial transactions for the user to occur, that modify or delete user-controllable data in data storage systems, or that submit user test responses, at least one of the following is true: • Reversible: Submissions are reversible. • Checked: Data entered by the user is checked for input errors and the user is provided an opportunity to correct them. • Confirmed: A mechanism is available for reviewing, confirming, and correcting information before finalizing the submission.	Not Applicable	The product does not handle legal, financial, or irreversible user transactions.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 only) In content implemented using markup languages, status messages can be programmatically determined through role or properties such that they can be presented to the user by assistive technologies without receiving focus.	Not Applicable	No status messages are used.