



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Information Services

Eric Soderquist, Director of Information Services
148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553
Phone (907) 714-8803 Fax (907) 262-9645

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: 10/6/2017
To: KPBSD Board of Education
From: Eric Soderquist, Director of Information Services *ES*
RE: Receipt of ADA Complaint and Next Steps

KPBSD has received notification that the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education received a complaint dated January 17, 2017, alleging that the district is discriminating, on the basis of disability, because certain pages on its website are not accessible to persons with disabilities.

The complaint notes three specific web pages.

Upon receipt of the initial notification, KPBSD Information Services implemented an action plan to audit not only the pages alleged in the complaint, but also other high-traffic pages, including the primary homepage. This audit revealed a number of issues, and steps are underway to address those issues within the current technical limitations of our existing web platform and template.

As of this date, KPBSD Information Services, through the work accomplished by our website contractor, has reduced the number of accessibility concerns classified as “errors” to zero as benchmarked against the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, Level AA (WCAG 2.0 AA) and measured using the WAVE Web Accessibility Tool (wave.webaim.org). There remain a number of concerns classified as “alerts” to address.

KPBSD is committed to providing an information presence that is available to all users, including those individuals with disabilities. To that end, we have entered into a voluntary resolution process with the OCR, and are currently negotiating a resolution agreement that focuses energy on the existing effort to redesign and modernize the KPBSD web platform, rather than focusing on auditing and remediating the existing site. As part of this process, improved processes and training for content authors are under development to ensure an increased awareness at all levels to information accessibility.

Through this work, KPBSD is focused on continuing to improve the ease of information disseminated through our existing and future information channels, including the website.

The resolution agreement negotiation begins upon the receipt of a draft resolution agreement from OCR (as of the date of this memo, we have requested a draft, and are awaiting a response from the OCR). Once we receive this draft agreement, a 30-day negotiation processes begins. At the conclusion of this 30-day period, specific timelines and expectations surrounding implementation of content publication processes, remediation efforts, and training will be established.

Specific timelines and additional information available at the conclusion of this resolution agreement negotiation process will be brought forward to the board when available.