Dear Colleague Letter on Online Accessibility by Postsecondary Institutions

May 19, 2023

On Behalf of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Catherine E. Lhamon and Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke

Today, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a letter regarding the Departments' ongoing efforts to address barriers that prevent people with disabilities from participating in online services, programs, and activities that colleges, universities, and other postsecondary institutions make available to students and the public. Educational institutions increasingly rely on technology to deliver content to students and the general public. When schools are proactive about ensuring the accessibility of their digital content and technology in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, opportunities are improved for all, including for students with disabilities. The letter highlights recent DOJ and OCR enforcement actions to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 that have improved online accessibility at postsecondary institutions across the country. It also describes current online accessibility challenges and provides resources about Federal laws that protect the rights of students with disabilities.

The letter can be found at OCR's <u>Digital Accessibility</u> webpage and DOJ's <u>Disability Rights Cases</u> page.