

# Vetting for Accessibility



Accessibility guidelines can be confusing. The [POUR principles](#) of Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, and Robust can help. Each principle represents standards and guidelines for ensuring accessibility in digital materials and technologies. **If you're acquiring or procuring materials and technologies for your classroom, district, or state, there are questions you can ask to make sure all students can use the materials selected.**

## Is it Perceivable?

Perceivable materials present information in a flexible format to account for [the varied ways in which learners recognize information](#).

- Does the material provide **options for customizing the display** (e.g., adjusting the text size and changing the background and text colors to increase the contrast)?
- Does the material include **accessible alternatives for embedded media** (e.g., alternative text for images, captions for videos, transcripts for audio)?
- Does the material include **accessible alternatives for special notation** (e.g., MathML for math equations)?

## Is it Operable?

Operable materials provide flexible navigation options for the content and give learners [multiple ways to control the interface](#).

- Does the material provide **flexible options for navigation and response** where appropriate (e.g., keyboard shortcuts, screen gestures, voice control)?
- Does the material include **location supports to allow users to track progress** (e.g., page numbers, progress bars, table of contents)?
- Is the **timing or pace of presentation** flexible and customizable (e.g., option for extending session time limit, flexible playback speeds for audio and video)?
- Does the material **avoid the use of flashing content** that could trigger a seizure?

**Bonus Tip:** Take the [No Mouse Challenge](#) to experience your content as a keyboard-only user. As you use the Tab key to navigate through the content, are you able to tell where you are?

## Is it Understandable?

Understandable materials behave in an intuitive, logical and predictable way and let learners focus more of their energy and attention on understanding the content.

- Is the **language** of the material appropriate for the intended audience?
- Does the material include **definitions of key terms** that are essential for understanding (e.g., a glossary, expansions for abbreviations)?
- Does the material provide **guidance for expected responses** (e.g., rubrics, length requirements, suggested formats)?
- Does the material behave in an **intuitive, predictable and logical manner** (e.g., consistent navigation, explanations of unique features to help new users)?
- Is **feedback provided** in multiple ways (e.g., errors identified with more than color or sound)?

## Is it Robust?

Robust materials work well with both current and future technologies (e.g., web browsers and reading systems). This includes compatibility with assistive technologies.

- Does the material work on **different operating systems and platforms** (desktop as well as mobile)?
- Does the material need **special plug-ins** to work?

- Does the material have **copyright protections** that could block assistive technologies?
- Does the material include an **accessibility statement** along with some way to report accessibility issues?

