



*Accessibility Evaluation of Pearson REVEL Platform
VPAT Document*

Presented to: Pearson

July 23, 2015

Document Version 1.0

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August 13, 2015

Document Version 1.1

Pearson additions:

Scope, Status & Legal

Pearson modifications:

Changed “Supports” to “Does not
Support” for item 1194.22 (j)

Updated contact information

Scope

This VPAT applies to the student view of REVEL 3.0.1.

This VPAT is for elements of REVEL products that are shared across all REVEL products. We call this the REVEL platform. A full REVEL product is made up of the platform, widget types, and topic-specific content. For a 100% accessible experience, each of these elements needs to be accessible. As such, this document gives part of the accessibility picture for a REVEL course.

Status

The REVEL platform was designed with accessibility in mind and can be used by students with disabilities, but there are outstanding bugs that prevent full standards compliance and an optimal experience.

Legal Info

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1. Executive Summary

Tech For All, Inc. (TFA, www.TFAConsulting.com) conducted an independent Accessibility Evaluation of the *REVEL Platform* to test, analyze, and identify accessibility barriers encountered when using the platform by people with disabilities. The evaluation generated sufficient information to be able to assess the degree to which the web application conforms to the Section 508 Accessibility Standards. TFA concludes that overall the REVEL Platform supports Section 508 standards with exceptions. Conformance details are identified in the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) below.

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC) has published recommended language to be used in completing VPAT documents that has been designed to create simplicity and uniformity/consistency in VPATs presented by a variety of suppliers. In preparing the VPAT, TFA has used the ITIC-recommended *VPAT Summary Description and Suggested Language for Completing VPAT* that can be found in *Appendix A*.

Based on this evaluation and on information published on the ITIC website (<http://www.itic.org>), TFA presents the following VPAT document for the REVEL Platform as laid out in the following tables: Table 1: Summary of Applicable Criteria, Table 2: Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet Information and Applications, Table 3: Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria, and Table 4: Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation, and Support. In Table 4, Criterion 2 & 3 should be verified and completed by Pearson.

2. Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)

REVEL Platform: <https://console.pearson.com/signin>

Table 1: Summary of Applicable Criteria

Criteria	Supporting Feature	Remarks and Explanations
Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems	Not applicable	Section not applicable to this product
Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet information and applications	Supports with Exceptions	Please refer to the VPAT Details
Section 1194.23 Telecommunications Products	Not applicable	Section not applicable to this product
Section 1194.24 Video and Multi-media Products	Not applicable	Section not applicable to this product
Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products	Not applicable	Section not applicable to this product
Section 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers	Not applicable	Section not applicable to this product
Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria	Supports with Exceptions	Please refer to the VPAT Details
Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support	Supports	Please refer to the VPAT Details

Table 2: Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet information and communications

Criteria	Supporting Feature	Remarks and Explanations
(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt," "longdesc," or in element content).	Supports	
(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.	Does not Support	Console page video missing captions and transcripts.
(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.	Supports	The use of color alone is not used to convey information on any of the pages.
(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.	Supports	The application is readable without styles.
(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.	Supports	
(f) Client-side image maps shall be provided instead of server-side image maps except where the regions cannot be defined with an available geometric shape.	Supports	
(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.	Supports with Exceptions	Headers missing from one performance page.
(h) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.	Supports with Exceptions	Headers missing from one performance page.
(i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation.	Supports	
(j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Does not Support	Pages may present some flash-like effects during loading, depending on the user's environment.
(k) A text-only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a website comply with the provisions of this part, when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes.	N/A	Text-only page is not available.

Criteria	Supporting Feature	Remarks and Explanations
(l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by Assistive Technology.	Supports with Exceptions	Some custom controls weren't fully accessible and lack name, role, and value attributes that can be identified by assistive technology.
(m) When a web page requires that an applet, plug-in or other application be present on the client system to interpret page content, the page must provide a link to a plug-in or applet that complies with 1194.21(a) through (l).	Supports	No applets or plug-ins are required.
(n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed online, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	Supports	Form field elements are labeled.
(o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.	Supports	Headings are available as a tool to skip repetitive content.
(p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.	Supports	No timed responses are present.

Table 3: Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria

Criteria	Supporting Feature	Remarks and Explanations
(a) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user vision shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are blind or visually impaired shall be provided.	Support with Exceptions	Assistive technology users are able to complete all of the basic functions of the platform with few exceptions. Accessing sliders quiz drawer, assignment list drawer and other tools were found to be inaccessible.
(b) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require visual acuity greater than 20/70 shall be provided in audio and enlarged print output working together or independently, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are visually impaired shall be provided.	Supports with Exceptions	Use of the application is available with resizing of the screen to 200% as well as magnification software. Assistive technology users are able to complete all of the basic functions of the platform with few exceptions. Accessing sliders quiz drawer, assignment list drawer and other tools were found to be inaccessible.
(c) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user hearing shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing shall be provided.	Does not Support	Console page video lacks captions and transcripts.
(d) Where audio information is important for the use of a product, at least one mode of operation and information retrieval shall be provided in an enhanced auditory fashion, or support for assistive hearing devices shall be provided.	Supports	Users can use their own technology and computer to enhance the audio.
(e) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user speech shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people with disabilities shall be provided.	Supports	No pages require speech.
(f) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require fine motor control or simultaneous actions and that is operable with limited reach and strength shall be provided.	Support with Exceptions	Although aspects of the application support the use of assistive technology, keyboard only users are unable to access all page functionality such as the slider, quiz drawer, and assignment list drawer on the Content Player Page.

Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support

Criteria	Supporting Feature	Remarks and Explanations
(a) Product support documentation provided to end-users shall be made available in alternate formats upon request, at no additional charge	Supports	Help and support is available within the application.
(b) End-users shall have access to a description of the accessibility and compatibility features of products in alternate formats or alternate methods upon request, at no additional charge.	Supports	Pearson can provide access to the application’s VPAT for customers upon request. Pearson also maintains information on accessibility for students at: http://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/accessibility/
(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.	Supports	Pearson Support is familiar with such features as keyboard access and other options important to people with disabilities. Pearson is also familiar with using telephone relay services for customers who are deaf or hard of hearing. For assistance, email disability.support@pearson.com

Appendix A: VPAT Background

To facilitate effective communication between producers of products and services and those who acquire them concerning the accessibility of specific products, an accessibility information template was created by a joint government and industry effort. The VPAT document was created by the Information Technology Industry Council (www.itic.org) based on Section 508 Standards established by the United States Access Board (www.access-board.gov) in 2001.

The use of the VPAT as an evaluation tool has enabled companies to self-document and formally attest to conformance and nonconformance with specific Section 508 requirements point by point. Its purpose is to assist federal and state contracting officials and other purchasers in making preliminary assessments regarding the availability of commercial Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) products and services with features that support accessibility. Vendors are frequently required to submit VPATs with their responses to RFPs and other government purchasing proposals.

For each ICT product category to which Section 508 applies, three different requirements need to be addressed. (Complete information regarding these requirements can be found at the www.section508.gov and www.itic.org websites):

1. Specific Requirements, corresponding to specific product groups:
 - Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems
 - Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet Information and Applications
 - Section 1194.23 Telecommunications Products
 - Section 1194.24 Video and Multimedia Products
 - Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products
 - Section 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers
2. Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria, “Functional Performance Criteria,” applying to all product groups
3. Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation, and Support: General Requirement, “Information, Documentation, and Support,” applying to the information provided *accompanying* all ICT products. Thus FAQ’s, Manuals and the like must all be accessible.

Considering that the VPAT carries important information for the procurement official, it is essential that a supplier/producer provide an accurately prepared VPAT that fairly and responsibly represents its product and/or service.

Suggested VPAT Language:

In order to simplify the task of conducting market research assessments for procurement officials or customers, ITIC (www.itic.org) has developed suggested language for use when filling out a VPAT document. The following table provides the suggested language.

Column 1 - Supporting Features

Column 2 - Remarks and Explanations

Feedback from procurement officials and customers shows that providing further explanation regarding features and exceptions is especially helpful. Use this column to detail how the product addresses the standard or criteria by:

- Listing accessibility features or features that are accessible
- Detailing where in the product an exception occurs

Explaining equivalent methods of facilitation (definition of "equivalent facilitation" -see 36 CFR 1194.5.)

Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
Supports	Use this language when you determine the product fully meets the letter and intent of the Criteria.
Supports with Exceptions	Use this language when you determine the product does not fully meet the letter and intent of the Criteria, but provides some level of access relative to the Criteria.
Supports through Equivalent Facilitation	Use this language when you have identified an alternate way to meet the intent of the Criteria or when the product does not fully meet the intent of the Criteria.
Supports when combined with Compatible Assistive Technology	Use this language when you determine the product fully meets the letter and intent of the Criteria when used in combination with Compatible AT. For example, many software programs can provide speech output when combined with a compatible screen reader (commonly used assistive technology for people who are blind).
Does not Support	Use this language when you determine the product does not meet the letter or intent of the Criteria.
Not Applicable	Use this language when you determine that the Criteria do not apply to the specific product.
Not Applicable - Fundamental Alteration Exception Applies	Use this language when you determine a Fundamental Alteration of the product would be required to meet the Criteria (see the access board standards for the definition of "fundamental alteration").

