

Proposed Board Policy 2.17 and 2.17P Accessibility of ICT - Background

Over the past decade, scores of colleges and universities nation-wide have been sued, or have received Office of Civil Rights complaints regarding non-compliance with federal and/or state laws regarding Information and Communications Technology (ICT) accessibility.

A robust ICT Accessibility policy is the first step towards accessibility compliance. Strong policies demonstrate a good faith effort to comply with the law, and create a necessary mechanism for internal accountability and process around the implementation of ICT accessibility.

The District currently has no policy on ICT with the breadth covered by the proposed policy 2.17 and 2.17P submitted to College Council by the District Access Committee. The District has several piecemeal policies addressing certain aspects of ICT accessibility, but none that are comprehensive.

The goal of the District Access Committee is that the District have one policy that covers all ICT for all constituencies. It was important to us who work on the proposed policy that it offer clear guidelines regarding staff responsibilities, available resources, and employee protections.

Proposed Board Policy 2.17 and 2.17P have been through College Council, and were crafted with assistance from many in the campus community, including representatives of: Academic Affairs Council, AFA, Classified Senate, Distance Education, District Online Committee, DRD, EPCC, the Management Team, SEIU, and more.

The proposed policy will reside in the District Governance section 2 of the Board Policies, and will supersede [3.12.3 Accessibility of Online Web-Based Instructional Materials](#) and [3.12.3P](#).