

Section 508 is part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and it requires electronic and information technology developed, procured, maintained, or used by the Federal Government to be accessible to people with disabilities. On August 7, 1998, President Clinton signed into law the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which includes the Rehabilitation Act of 1998. The 1998 amendments significantly expanded and strengthened the technology access requirements in Section 508. The U.S. Access Board, an independent federal agency devoted to accessibility for people with disabilities, issued new standards for electronic and information technology effective as of June 21, 2001. Federal departments and agencies must comply with Section 508. It does not regulate the private sector and does not apply directly to recipients of federal funds. However, it does serve as the basis for several state statutes around ICT accessibility, including Oklahoma's.

States that receive federal funds under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 are required by that Act to provide an assurance of compliance with Section 508. Currently, all states and territories receive Assistive Technology Act dollars and all have some form of Section 508 assurance.

Federal Technical Assistance

U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Civil Rights Division
Disability Rights Section - NYA
Washington, D.C. 20530
800.514.0301 or 800.514.0383 (V/TTY)
<http://www.ada.gov>

Access Board

1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004-1111
202.272.5434 or 202.272.5449 (V/TTY)
800.872.2253 or 800.993.2822 (V/TTY)
www.access-board.gov

Oklahoma Law

Oklahoma's Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility law, or EITA, was passed in 2004. It echoes Federal Section 508 and applies to state agencies, post-secondary institutions, and CareerTech centers. Agencies should refer to Oklahoma's standards and rules documents (Oklahoma Administrative Code Titles 260 and 580). Oversight for Oklahoma's EITA law is provided by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services. Oklahoma EITA law includes an administrative complaint process (OAC 260:15-1-6). www.accessibility.ok.gov

Oklahoma Technical Assistance

Oklahoma ABLE Tech
1514 W. Hall of Fame
Stillwater, OK 74078
405.744.9748 or 888.885.5588 (V/TTY)
www.okabletech.okstate.edu



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