
TO: Local Education Agency Career and Technical Education Administrators

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SUBJECT: Career and Technical Education` (CTE) Programs of Study
Education Article § 7-910 Equivalent access requirements for students with disabilities

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding Local Education Agency (LEA) reporting to MSDE under Education Article §7-910. These are mandatory requirements in the law.

Accessibility Reporting Requirements

Education Article [§ 7-910 “Equivalent access requirements for students with disabilities”](#) applies to the LEA CTE programs and requires all digital tools developed or procured to meet the accessibility standards established in law and regulations, including [COMAR 13A.06.05](#) “Purchase and Use of Accessible Teaching and Learning Materials.”

LEAs are required to report certain information to MSDE regarding the accessibility of digital tools developed or procured. The LEAs must:

- collect the accessibility conformance report (ACR) using the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) from vendors offering digital tools to the LEA pursuant to § 7-910(c)(2)(ii);
- complete an evaluation of the digital tool pursuant to § 7-910(c)(3);
- through the LEA accessibility points of contact, notify MSDE if the LEA determines that a digital tool that meets equivalent access standards is not available, or if obtaining an available product would fundamentally alter the nature of the instructional activity or would result in an undue burden, pursuant to § 7-910(e)(2)(i); and
- on or before October 1, report to MSDE on the accessibility of the digital tools developed or procured during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to § 7-910(i)(1).

Career and Technical Education Programs of Study

Maryland CTE approved programs of study are aligned to nationally or state-recognized industry and academic standards (pedagogical value). Like all digital tools, they must adhere to the reporting requirements for equivalent access standards outlined in Education Article § 7-910 and COMAR 13A.06.05.

CTE programs that do not meet accessibility requirements must be submitted by the LEA accessibility points of contact through the MSDE "Notification to Obtain a Digital Tool That Does Not Meet Equivalent Access Standards" process, as established by MSDE. The submission should include a brief explanation of the educational value of the tool and its alignment with industry standards.