Access: The Next Steps

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Overview: Creating a More Inclusive Environment

- Civil Rights Law
- Universal Design
- Welcoming Older Visitors
- Supporting All Students
- Good Web Design
- Useful Technologies
- Policies and Procedures
Civil Rights Law

- Architectural Barriers Act of 1968
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment, 2010
- State and Local laws may differ
Key Points

- Effective Communication
- Physical Access
- Access to Programs, goods and services
American Sign Language
Induction loops
What is Universal Design?

- Equitable Use
- Flexibility in use
- Simple and intuitive
- Perceptible information
- Tolerance for error
- Low physical effort
- Size and space for approach and use
Examples of 7 Principles

1. Equitable Use
   The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

2. Flexibility in Use
   The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

3. Simple and Intuitive Use
   Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user’s experience, knowledge, language skills, or education level.

4. Perceptible Information
   The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user’s sensory abilities.

5. Tolerance for Error
   The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

6. Low Physical Effort
   The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

7. Size and Space for Approach and Use
   Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user’s body size, posture, or mobility.
Please be seated....
Aim for equity and inclusion

- Create a place where visitors and their families want to hang out
- Benefit from the diversity
- Utilize **UNIVERSAL DESIGN**
- Benefit everyone
- Plan from the beginning, save time and money
Interactive for everyone
Inclusive Playground Design
Universally Designed Desk
Are you ready for the baby boomers?

- Train your staff and volunteers
  - Etiquette
  - Language
  - Procedures
- Resources and Services
- Specific Programs
Resources and Services

- Mobility Devices
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Signage
- Adequate Lighting
- Seating
- Materials in Alternate Format (Braille, Large Print, Audio)
Specific Programs

- Programs for people with dementia and memory loss
  - Alzheimer’s tours
  - Art making
  - Movement
  - Music

- Programs for people who are blind or low vision

- Accommodations for people who are hard of hearing
Tailoring a Tour
Including all students

- Take an inclusive approach, Universal design in learning
- No surprises
- Visual cues
- Checking in
- ALDS, etc.
- Students with Autism
A Social Story
Accessible Website Design
The basics

• Include text equivalents for all images
• Use headings to aid in page navigation
• Supply a mechanism to skip repetitive links
• Label form controls explicitly
• Provide accessible multimedia (video and audio clips) – see captioning and description
• Provide a visible focus
• Ensure device independence
• Ensure sufficient foreground/background contrast
Useful Technologies: Audio Description and Captioning
Audio Description of objects
Examples...
Useful Technologies: Handheld Devices
Useful technologies: Smart Pen
Useful technologies: 3D models and tours

The end of "do not touch" – and you can DIY!

http://3D.si.edu
Existing Facilities

What are the priorities?

- Getting in
- Getting to goods and services
- The Restroom
- Everything else
Self-Assessment

Where are you at?

- Assess
- Prioritize
- Plan

Don’t wait until you can do it all!
Cultural Access New England (CANE)

- Mission: advance access to cultural facilities in New England
- Steering Comm: MFA, MoS, WGBH, State House, JFK Library, VSAMass, Wheelock Family Theater
- Accessibility = programmatic, architectural, physical, communication, attitudinal, other forms of access.
- CANE says “increasing accessibility for people with disabilities increases accessibility for everyone.”

What can you do for CANE? Join us!
Contact us

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