



New York State  
**Disability Services Council**

**NYS Higher Education Plan 2012-2020**

**Page 17 (1st full paragraph) “Educating All Students” test, designed to address the learning needs of a diverse student population.**

*New York State, like many states, faces persistent achievement gaps for ELLs, students with disabilities, and Black and Latino students. Therefore, the new Educating All Students test is designed to ensure that all incoming teachers and school building leaders understand how to address the learning needs of diverse student populations and how to support them in attaining the new college and career ready standards.*

**Page 23 (last paragraph) “Learning Web” potential access concerns**

*In an effort to provide adult learners with a secondary education credential, the Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES) - Adult Education Programs and Policy (AEPP) is piloting the use of “Learner Web” - a web-based learner support system developed by Portland State University and designed for adults who want to take the GED® test, improve their English language skills, basic literacy skills, or job-related basic skills.*

**Response:**

It is essential that the vendors of technology tools be accessible in order to provide equal access and equal opportunity to people with diverse abilities. “Learner Web” is a web-based learner support system developed by Portland State University and designed for adults who want to take the GED®. When viewing the “Learner Web” website “*Illuminate Life! “Introduction to the Learning Web 4.19.10”*” to review accessibility of the web based learning system that State Education is recommending, the Webinar had audio with no captioning options for hearing impaired, limited ability for keyboard shortcuts for physical concerns and no standard accessibility programming for the webinar.

NYSDSC is not in support of any technology that is not accessible. With review of the “Learner Web” program, there is nothing on the website or within the introduction that remotely indicate that students requiring accommodations to use this program will be provided with the legal responsibility of our state educational department. NY State Education Department must legally consider products that are used with accessibility awareness and meet accessibility standards. NYSDSC asks to have a commitment statement in the strategic plan that indicates all technology tools used will be compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) <http://www.w3.org/WAI/intro/wcag.php> .