

SELECT CUSTOMERS

SSB has enabled leading education institutions to reach their accessibility goals, including:

- California Community College System
- Georgia Tech University
- University of Colorado
- WebCT
- ThinQ
- HorizonLive
- Smithsonian Institution

SSB EXPERTISE

SSB's country-specific standards expertise can ensure your organization's compliance with:

- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (USA)
- Disability Discrimination Act (United Kingdom)
- W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (International)
- Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act (USA)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (USA)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (USA)
- Disability Discrimination Act (Australia)
- eEurope Initiatives (European Union)
- Common Look and Feel Standards (Canada)



SSB Technologies, Inc.
(415) 975-8000
sales@ssbtechnologies.com

ACCESSIBILITY FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Education is seen as a basic right, and any barriers to access are closely scrutinized by government regulators, people with disabilities, and advocacy groups. Educational institutions face compliance risks and punitive damages for using and maintaining inaccessible Information Technology (IT) systems, including Web sites, Web applications, software, and hardware. To avoid these risks, educational institutions must ensure compliance with accessibility requirements mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

SSB Technologies has extensive experience helping educational institutions achieve accessibility. Working with more than 400 clients, SSB has developed solutions for the unique problems encountered within the public sector, such as distributed IT systems, limited budgets, and varying levels of technical knowledge. SSB is the proven partner for helping education institutions create and maintain accessible Information Technology (IT) systems.

ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Laws and policies affecting educational institutions include:

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** – The equal access requirement of the ADA requires IT system accessibility. Just as physical classroom locations must provide equal access for people with disabilities, similar accessibility enhancements are required for IT systems.
- **Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act** – Institutions receiving Federal funds from the Department of Education may be required to comply with Section 508, which mandates that all IT systems used, developed, procured, and maintained by covered organizations be accessible to people with disabilities.
- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** – IDEA requires that educational institutions provide support services for students with disabilities.

RELEVANT IT SYSTEMS

Accessibility is relevant to all IT systems used by educational institutions. The following IT systems commonly deployed by educational institutions face the strongest accessibility requirements:

- **Online Course Material** – Course material that is offered online, including distance learning, syllabi, and multimedia presentations, must be accessible to enable equal access for students with disabilities.
- **Teaching Technology** – Technologies used in classroom teaching and for completing assignments, such as computers and software programs, must be accessible.
- **Online Services** – Online services, including library databases, financial aid information, and enrollment registration forms, face strong accessibility requirements.
- **Internal IT Systems** – IT systems used internally to perform essential job functions, such as Intranets, software applications, and hardware, must be accessible in order to avoid legal action by employees with disabilities.

CASE STUDY

SSB was approached by the largest community college system in the nation, with over 100 campuses and the highest enrollment of people with disabilities. The college system needed an accessibility solution that could be deployed across many campuses, used by teachers and administrators with different levels of technical knowledge, and fit within a limited budget. SSB provided:

- InFocus Suite software to find and fix accessibility errors in Web content.
- Onsite and online training targeted towards addressing existing accessibility violations.
- Flexible services that enabled staff with multiple responsibilities to implement accessibility.

As a result of SSB's collaboration, the college system was able to greatly increase the accessibility of its IT systems, and free teachers and administrators to focus on other job responsibilities with the time savings generated by SSB products and services.

WHY USE SSB?

SSB Technologies is the proven accessibility partner. We offer the best:

Experience - SSB has worked with over 400 customers and successfully completed more than 600 consulting projects, including over 200 engagements with public sector customers.

Methodology - Our Assess, Address, Assure solution integrates the business and technical requirements necessary for creating and maintaining accessible IT systems.

Expertise - Founded by people with disabilities, SSB maintains a proprietary knowledge-base developed through years of experience, participation in Section 508 and World Wide Web Consortium standards development processes, and collaboration with disability advocacy groups.

Technology - SSB developed the first commercial accessibility testing software after years of research. The InFocus Suite still leads the field, offering the highest levels of automation and most complete set of accessibility tests. SSB software can save up to 90% of the cost and time required to become compliant.

THE SSB ACCESSIBILITY SOLUTION FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

SSB offers targeted products and services that enable educational institutions to create and maintain accessible IT systems. SSB products and services are most effective when incorporated into our unique Assess, Address, Assure™ accessibility solution which integrates the business and technical requirements necessary for achieving and maintaining accessibility.

Assess products and services clarify current accessibility status and prepare your organization to implement accessibility enhancements. They include:

- **Business Assessment** - analysis of business operations to identify and prioritize organization-wide accessibility risks, reviewing IT systems deployed by your organization, and evaluating their accessibility exposure.
- **Technical Assessments** - review of IT systems determined by your organization's Business Assessment to be at risk. The analysis identifies all accessibility violations and determines the most effective ways to achieve the required level of accessibility.

Address products and services enable educational institutions to save time and money implementing accessibility enhancements. They include:

- **The InFocus Suite** - powerful automation enabling developers and staff to find and fix accessibility violations in online content.
- **Training** - targeted courses teach staff members to create and maintain accessible IT systems. Courses are customized to provide solutions for known problems in your organization's IT systems and modified to the experience levels of participants.
- **Implementation Services** - provide on-demand solutions customized to your organization's implementation needs. Services include Project Plan Development, Outsourced Accessibility Support, and Documentation Development.

SSB ACCESSIBILITY SOLUTION (CONT.)

Assure products and services ensure that accessibility is maintained over time. As products are updated, legislation and standards are revised, and new assistive technologies are released, SSB ensures that your organization stays on top of changes that may affect your accessibility status. They include:

- **Audit** - validates that accessibility enhancements were correctly implemented during the Address phase and that accessibility is maintained over time. Audits ensure that new versions of IT systems are accessible.
- **Accessibility Management Program** - provides access to SSB Accessibility Experts to answer all accessibility questions, from legal to technical. The Accessibility Management Program helps educational institutions effectively manage all aspects of an accessibility initiative.
- **Accessibility Certification** - certifies that IT systems are usable by people with disabilities. Accessibility Certification from the National Federation of the Blind reduces legal liabilities and demonstrates your organization's commitment to serving people with disabilities.

ABOUT SSB TECHNOLOGIES

SSB Technologies provides solutions that resolve the revenue loss, punitive damages, and compliance risks created by inaccessible Information Technology (IT) systems, including Web sites, Web applications, software, and hardware. SSB's proven Assess, Address, Assure™ solution integrates the business and technical requirements necessary to transform accessibility from a liability into a competitive advantage. With over 400 public and private sector customers, 600 successfully completed projects, and award-winning software, SSB has the experience and expertise to ensure that your organization reaches its accessibility goals.

MOVING FORWARD WITH SSB

Please contact us at (415) 975-8000 to speak with an Accessibility Expert about SSB's solutions for educational institutions.

www.ssbtechnologies.com

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