



THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND PUBLIC SERVICES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) — which became law in July 1990 — prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities by state and local government. Share these protections with your students.

- Programs, facilities, services, and activities in public entities legally need to be accessible to people with disabilities.
- Policies and procedures within public entities must be modified or revised if they discriminate or “weed out” individuals with disabilities.
- Public entities must complete a “self-evaluation” to assess if their current policies and procedures are legally abiding by Section 2 of the ADA.
- Public entities must be able to provide direct access emergency telephone services that cater to individuals with hearing, vision, and speech disabilities.

Examples of Physical Accessibility

- Curb ramps on sidewalks
- Handrails in bathrooms
- Disability-reserved parking spaces
- Elevators
- Large doorway entrances
- Disability-reserved aisle seats
- Platform lift on public bus
- Wheelchair accessible telephone
- Electronic door openers
- Accessible entrances to buildings via ramps

Examples of Non-Physical Accessibility

- Teletypewriter devices (TTY's)
- Braille on direction signs within a building
- Legible signs for people with visual impairments
- Accessibility symbols
- Volume control telephones
- Detectible warnings on sidewalks
- Assistive listening systems (ALD's)