

## The Rhonda Weiss Center for Accessible IDEA Data



**RHONDA WEISS CENTER**  
FOR ACCESSIBLE IDEA DATA

The Rhonda Weiss Center for Accessible IDEA Data is a technical assistance data center, funded by the Office of Special Education (OSEP).



## The Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia (ITCVA)

The Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia is Virginia's Part C of IDEA early intervention system for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

## Our Rhonda Weiss Center for Accessible IDEA Data Journey

### Awareness

- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Something that's easy for me to read (or view, or interpret, or understand) may be less so for others...?
- And, more importantly...that I can do something about it?

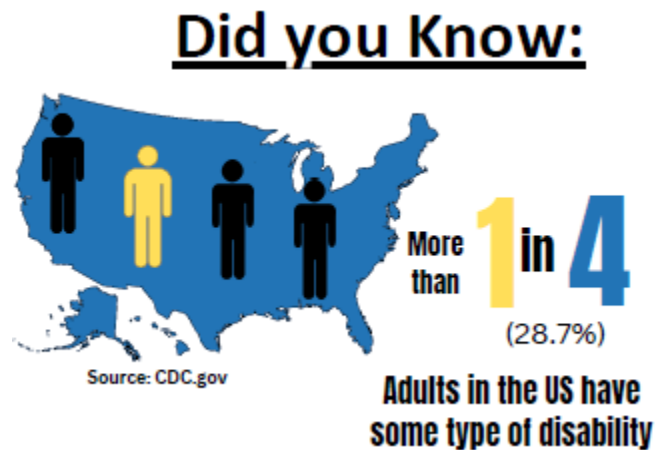
### Reflection

- Is our staff aware of accessibility issues, requirements and steps to improve? Do all staff members need to know?
- Are our documents accessible? Do they all need to be? We have hundreds! We'll never be able to revise them all!
- What about our website? We can't afford a complete makeover!
- Are we overlooking anything? We must be forgetting something!

## Commitment

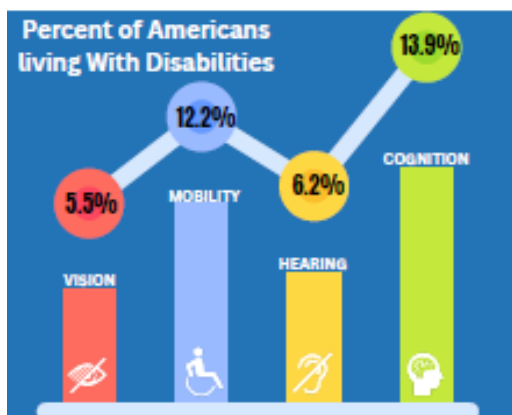
- To grace: This is a process. We'll get there. The Weiss Center can help.
- To training: All staff understand Section 508 and how to incorporate recommended practices into their work.
- To development: All new products are developed in accordance with recommended practices.
- To revisiting: All existing products that are still in use are updated to incorporate recommended practices.

Did you Know More than 1 in 4 (28.7%) adults in the U.S. have some type of disability?



## Data Access:

- Is Power
- A “Seat at the Table”
- Ability to Self Advocate



## Why this is important to you:

- Interactions and engagement with Stakeholders
- Public reporting in an accessible way
- “Walking the Talk” and being an advocate for the individuals we serve

## Digital Accessibility:

Ability of digitally based material to be accessed by a wide range of users, including those with visual, cognitive, motor, and hearing impairments.



## Idaho Department of Education



Data are powerful and Idaho is interested in going beyond the basics of 508 compliance.

## What led Idaho to Weiss

Improve public reporting and increase:

- Access
- Understanding
- Engagement

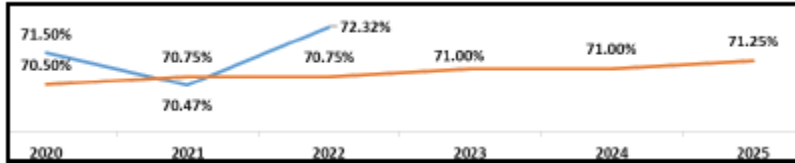
## Areas of support

Review of:

- Public Reporting
- Understandability

- Alternative text
- Parent Involvement Survey Questions

## Big “Ah-Ha” Moment: Describing Graphs in Alt Text



### Alternative Text Before Weiss Review

Basic description of the data points displayed.

Graph comparing State data to State Targets for Indicator 8 – Parent Involvement. 2020 State Data 71.50%, State Target 70.50%. 2021 State Data 70.47%, State Target 70.75%. 2022 State Data NA, State Target 70.75%. 2023 State Data NA State Target 71%. 2024 State Data NA State Target 71%. 2025 State Data NA State Target 71.25%.

### Alternative Text After Review

Detailed description of the represented data written so that the whole graph is described.

The graph compares State data to State targets for Indicator 8: Parent Involvement. The x axis is set to federal fiscal years (FFY) of 2020 through 2025 and the y axis is set to percentage of families indicating that their student’s school facilitated their involvement in including state targets for all six years. State targets increase at a rate of .25 percentage points every two years starting at 70.5% and ending at 71.25%. State data have varied from FFY 2020 at 71.50% to FFY 2021 at 70.47%, and the most recent FFY 2022 at 72.32%.

## Future interactions with the Weiss Center

- Review of State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report indicators
- Continued review and improvement of public reporting
- Potential review of state website