**Peer Feedback App - Accessibility Guidelines**

This document outlines accessibility guidelines for the Peer Feedback App to ensure that all users, including those with disabilities, can effectively navigate, understand, and interact with the application. These guidelines are based on the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 AA standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

1. **Accessibility Goals**
   1. The goal of accessibility in the Peer Feedback App is to create an inclusive platform that supports equal access and usability for all users. This includes users with visual, auditory, motor, or cognitive disabilities. The application must provide:
   2. Equal access to information and functionality.
   3. Compatibility with assistive technologies such as screen readers and keyboard navigation.
   4. Clear and consistent visual design that supports readability and usability.
2. **Standards and Compliance**
   1. The app shall comply with the following standards:
   2. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA.
   3. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Section 508 compliance requirements.
   4. FERPA and GDPR principles for equitable access and user data protection.
3. **Key Accessibility Principles**
   1. Perceivable:
      1. Provide text alternatives for all non-text content (images, icons, charts).
      2. Ensure color is not the sole means of conveying information.
      3. Provide sufficient color contrast between text and background (minimum 4.5:1 ratio).
      4. Offer captions and transcripts for all audio/video content.
      5. Ensure all content is adaptable for zooming up to 200% without loss of function.
   2. Operable:
      1. All app features shall be fully accessible via keyboard navigation.
      2. Avoid using time limits for interactions unless user-adjustable.
      3. Provide clear focus indicators for interactive elements.
      4. Include skip navigation links to allow users to bypass repetitive content.
   3. Understandable:
      1. Use simple and consistent language across all UI components.
      2. Provide clear instructions for form fields and error messages.
      3. Ensure predictable navigation and consistent layout patterns.
      4. Offer inline help and tooltips where necessary.
   4. Robust:
      1. Ensure compatibility with modern assistive technologies (JAWS, NVDA, VoiceOver).
      2. Use semantic HTML and ARIA roles appropriately.
      3. Maintain accessibility through updates and code changes.
4. **Design and UI Considerations**
   1. Use scalable fonts and responsive layouts for accessibility on all devices.
   2. Maintain logical heading structure (H1, H2, H3) for screen readers.
   3. Ensure all clickable elements are at least 44x44 pixels for touch accessibility.
   4. Provide focus outlines for form elements and links.
   5. Avoid flashing or blinking elements that could trigger seizures.
5. **Testing and Verification**
   1. Accessibility testing will include the following approaches:
   2. Manual testing with screen readers (NVDA, JAWS, VoiceOver).
   3. Automated accessibility audits using tools such as WAVE, Axe, or Lighthouse.
   4. Keyboard-only navigation testing to confirm full functionality without a mouse.
   5. User testing with individuals with disabilities to identify usability barriers.
   6. Continuous monitoring as part of regression testing after UI changes.
6. **Accessibility Responsibilities**
   1. Frontend Developers: Implement semantic HTML, ARIA labels, and keyboard navigation support.
   2. UX/UI Designers: Ensure visual contrast, readable typography, and clear navigation flow.
   3. QA/Testers: Conduct accessibility audits and verify compliance during testing phases.
   4. Project Managers: Oversee adherence to accessibility standards throughout the development cycle.
7. **Accessibility Statement Template**
   1. The Peer Feedback App is committed to ensuring digital accessibility for all users. We are continuously improving the user experience for everyone and applying relevant accessibility standards. If you experience any difficulty accessing information on this app, please contact our support team at [support@email.com] with details about the issue.