VitalSource® **Accessibility**

The VitalSource Guide to Accessibility in EdTech

get.vitalsource.com

When we remove
the barriers to using content,
everyone benefits.

VitalSource®

What You Need to Know about Accessibility

Since our inception, VitalSource has led the industry in our unrivaled commitment to accessibility. It's critical to maintain an appropriate focus on assistive technologies so all students—regardless of ability—can have access to quality learning experiences.

Start your journey by choosing a partner that demonstrates expertise and a deep commitment to accessibility practices. This insider's guide is designed to help you evaluate products in the same way we do at VitalSource and to better understand how well they conform to industry standards.

How Do You Know
You're in Good Hands?

Asking each of these questions will help you see if the company you are working with is committed to servicing the widest possible range of users and their accommodations.

1. Is the platform and navigation designed with consideration for the accessibility needs and features of users?

2. Is the platform compatible with assistive technologies, like screen readers?

3. How do content controls or visual adjustments support low-vision users?

4. Are study aids accessible yet rich enough to improve retention and enhance the reading experience?

5. Is there end-to-end transparency of accessibility support before a user purchases or adopts?

Navigation Support

ASK: Is the platform and navigation designed with consideration for the accessibility needs and features of users?

Smart, intuitive design and functionality features can make a huge difference for students with disabilities.

EXPECT:

1. Intuitive tools to help users navigate content quickly and easily, including a table of contents, scrubber bar, and search bar

2. A highly functional reading experience that is structured to be easily consumed via assistive technology; it may include mark-up with heading levels and hyperlinks (where supplied by the publisher)

Reading Options

ASK: Is the platform compatible with assistive technologies, like screen readers?

Conformance testing for platforms should leverage the variety of screen readers and other assistive technology in use today.

EXPECT:

1. Platforms integrated with screen reader tools, such as Microsoft Narrator, JAWS, NVDA, TalkBack, and VoiceOver

2. Spoken word, vibrations, and other audible features to help students with visual impairments effectively use and interact with content

3. The ability to consume content in any standard book format, including PDF and EPUB

4. The ability to use other assistive technology, such as Braille displays

Content Controls

ASK: How do content controls or visual adjustments support low-vision users?

These features allow users to make adjustments to read in comfort, so the title or material can be adapted to each learner's unique needs.

EXPECT:

1. Options to adjust text size

2. A wide variety of fonts to choose from, including OpenDyslexic

3. The ability to magnify content in the platform

4. A way to easily adjust margin size

5. Built-in functionality to change the display color and background color (including night mode)

Study Aids

ASK: Are study aids accessible yet rich enough to improve retention and enhance the reading experience?

Adopting programs that incorporate useful study aids can help students practice what they've learned and reinforce content absorption.

EXPECT:

1. All the great study features of digital textbooks, including notetaking, highlighting, creating flashcards, and term look-up

2. Built-in text-to-speech functionality (Read Aloud) in any available language, with the ability to rewind, fast-forward, and pause

3. Highlighting of corresponding text in Read Aloud, so users can easily follow along with content

4. Search bars and shortcuts to find keywords and concepts anywhere they appear

Clear Accessibility Designations

Is there end-to-end transparency of accessibility support before a user purchases or adopts?

Providers need to identify the accessibility support publishers have included in a title, so users have confidence that their accommodations will be supported.

EXPECT:

1. Details related to accessibility support displayed clearly on the detail page for a title before purchase

2. Ability to see and evaluate the accommodations publishers have included, such that faculty can determine if the content meets students' needs before an adoption, and students can make an informed purchase

Transparency of accessibility claims is paramount.

**The VitalSource Advantage
Compliance, Standards, and Affiliations Checklist**

Do your learning and digital content management platforms and tools meet and exceed industry standards in privacy, security, and accessibility?

Use the VitalSource Master Compliance, Standards, and Affiliations Checklist* to ensure that you are investing in the most secure and compliant technologies available.

*Current as of April 2020

PRIVACY	VitalSource
Zero PII integration options for maximum user privacy	✓
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Conformance	✓
Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) Conformance	✓
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Conformance	✓
California Consumer Privacy Laws Conformance	✓
UK Data Protection Act of 2018 Conformance	✓
Safe Harbor Privacy Shield Conformance	✓

ACCESSIBILITY	VitalSource
DAISY Consortium Friend	✓
WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility conformance documentation	✓
Long time sponsor of the NFB	✓
Winner of the 2019 Accessibility in Publishing DAISY award	✓
ASPIRE Gold rating	✓
Helped create the EPUB accessibility specification	✓
Content Transparency Initiative	✓
Accessibility metadata feed to our partners	✓

EDTECH INTEGRATION	VitalSource
IMS Member & LTI Certification	✓
LTI-Advantage Certification	✓
LTI Deep Linking & Grade Return	✓
COUNTER compliant	✓
CALIPER Certification	✓

SECURITY		VitalSource
Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS) Support		✅
2 factor authentication for administrative access		✅
RSA public/private key		✅
CloudFlare		✅
Cloud Armor		✅
DRM hardening technologies		✅

LEARNER TOOLS	VitalSource
Offline App support for IOS, Android, Mac & Windows PLUS Kindle Fire and Chromebook	✓
Localized in U.S English & 36 other languages	✓
INTEGRATED STUDY TOOLS	**VitalSource**
Search in book and entire library	✓
Fast highlights mode	✓
Text read aloud	✓
Figure search	✓
Citations	✓
Visual display adjustment	✓
Review Mode	✓
Export to Microsoft OneNote	✓
Flashcard creation	✓
Assignment Creation	✓

TRUST AND SCALE	VitalSource
SOC II report covering security, privacy and confidentiality available	✓
24x7x365 access to Tier 1 support in English and Spanish with support facilities in North America	✓
Disaster Recovery protocols and geographically separated sites live and maintained	✓
Infrastructure hosted on Premium tier of GCP. North America served from U.S. based data center	✓
Over 120 global end points for content access	✓
Proven robust platform servicing millions of users and billions of requests each month worldwide	✓
World class content security trusted by thousands of publishers	✓
Best-in-class platform uptime	✓

VitalSource has always been at the forefront of creating and adopting accessibility standards.

We enable users to engage with their materials anywhere, anytime, by delivering highly functional experiences in browsers and native applications.

You care about delivering the best digital learning experiences for all students. We do too.

Accessibility is a journey, not a destination. Choose a partner that's leading the way.

To learn more about VitalSource's commitment to accessibility, visit get.vitalsource.com/learning-center.

VitalSource® **Accessibility**

Designed with All Learners in Mind.

Schedule a demo:

get.vitalsource.com