Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)

Level Access has completed two VPATs on behalf of Waterford.org—one for the web application and one for the tablet application—covering Waterford activities used in Waterford Early Learning and Waterford Upstart.

A **VPAT** is a document that explains how accessible a digital product is for people with disabilities. It describes how well a website or software works for individuals who may use screen readers, rely on keyboard navigation instead of a mouse, or have visual, hearing, motor, or cognitive disabilities.

A VPAT rates accessibility across specific standards and indicates whether a product:

1. Fully Supports
2. Partially Supports
3. Does Not Support
4. Not Applicable

Across all evaluated criteria, Waterford is rated as either **Fully Supports** or **Partially Supports**.

Waterford's rating of "Partially Supports" relates to standard accessibility criteria such as video captions. ***For early learners who are not yet reading, traditional captions are not developmentally appropriate.*** *In these cases, audio supports and other age-appropriate design features are used to ensure accessibility for young children.*

Waterford Institute – Accessibility Conformance Report WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

Name of Product/Version: Waterford Early Learning iOS App

Report Date: December 2025

Product Description: Waterford is a comprehensive early learning program for children in PreK–2nd grade. The program includes interactive, adaptive activities in reading, math, and science that adjust to each child's individual learning pace. Activities are designed to engage children while building essential foundational skills, and progress is measured through embedded assessments.

Contact Information: chadyates@waterford.org

Notes: This VPAT reflects accessibility testing conducted on a representative sampling of student-facing activities via the Waterford Early Learning app. The findings are intended to characterize common interaction patterns and activity types rather than every individual activity available in the product.

Evaluation Methods Used: Evaluation of the product involved a combination of automated, manual, and functional testing against the applicable success criteria within the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 Conformance Levels A and AA. Level Access (Level) tested a selection of the product using a representative sample to cover the components and functionality of use flows. Below is a list of the assistive technologies (ATs) used:

- iOS/VoiceOver

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1

Applicable Standards/Guidelines

This report covers the degree of conformance for the following accessibility standard/guidelines:

Standard/Guideline	Included in Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0	Level A – Yes Level AA – Yes Level AAA – No
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A – Yes Level AA – Yes Level AAA – No
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2	Level A – Yes Level AA – Yes Level AAA – No

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2

Terms

The terms used in the Conformance Level information are defined as follows:

- **Supports:** The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.
- **Partially Supports:** Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.
- **Does Not Support:** The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.
- **Not Applicable:** The criterion is not relevant to the product.
- **Not Evaluated:** The product has not been evaluated against the criterion. This can be used only in WCAG Level AAA.

WCAG 2.2 Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.x Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the WCAG 2.x Conformance Requirements.

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3

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most non-text content presented to the user in the product has text alternatives that serve the equivalent purpose. Exceptions include: • Images have insufficiently descriptive textual equivalents. • Visually hidden content can still be accessed by keyboard or screen reader users. • Decorative images have inappropriate textual equivalents. • Modal dialogs allow keyboard and/or screen reader access to elements behind the dialogs.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Partially Supports	In most instances, the product provides an alternative that presents equivalent information for prerecorded audio-only or video-only media. Exceptions include: • Game audio-only content does not have text transcripts.

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Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Partially Supports	In some instances, the product provides captions for prerecorded synchronized media (video with audio). Exceptions include: • Videos with audio have no captions.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	The product does not contain any prerecorded video media that requires audio descriptions or a media alternative.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially Supports	In most instances, the product ensures that information, structure, and relationships conveyed through presentation can also be determined programmatically or through text. Exceptions include: • Meaningful content and interactive controls cannot receive VoiceOver focus. • Content functions as a heading but is not marked as a heading.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	The product ensures that a correct reading order can be programmatically determined for content whose presentation sequence affects its meaning.

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Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	The product does not contain instructions that rely solely on sensory characteristics such as shape, size, visual location, or sound.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Supports	The product does not use color as the only visual means of conveying information, indicating an action, or prompting a response.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Supports	The product does not include audio that plays automatically.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Supports	The product ensures that interactive content and functionality is accessible and operable using a keyboard.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	Where a component can receive keyboard focus, the product allows focus to be moved away using only the keyboard.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	The product does not use character key shortcuts.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Supports	The product allows users to turn off, adjust, or extend time limits imposed for content before expiration.

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Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Supports	The product does not contain content that moves, blinks, scrolls, or auto-updates.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Supports	The product does not contain flashing content.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supports	This success criterion does not apply to non-web software.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Supports	Screens of the product provide titles that adequately describe their topic or purpose.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Partially Supports	In most instances, screen of the product can be navigated sequentially with a focus order that matches the logical reading order. Exceptions include: • Multiple swipe focus moves to individual controls.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Supports	The product ensures that the purpose of links can be determined from the link text alone or in combination with the surrounding or programmatic context.

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7

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 only)	Partially Supports	In most instances, the product ensures functionality that uses multipoint or path-based gestures for operation can be operated with a single pointer without a path-based gesture. Exceptions include: • There is no equivalent method provided for the controls that are only available with a path-based gesture.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	The product does not contain functionality that uses a pointer for operation, or the down-event of the pointer is not used to execute any part of the functionality.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	The product ensures that when interface components have visual labels that include text, the provided accessible name contains the visually presented text.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	The product does not contain functionality that requires device motion or user motion.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supports	The product ensures that the default human language used on each screen can be programmatically determined.

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8

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	The product ensures that interface components do not initiate a change of context when receiving focus.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supports	The product ensures that interactive components do not initiate a change in context when the component setting is changed unless followed by an explicit user action such as activation of a button or link.
3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	Help mechanisms occur in the same order relative to other screen content in the product.
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Partially Supports	In most instances, where the product automatically detects input errors, the item or field in error is identified and the error is described to the user in text. Exceptions include: • Error indications are not provided on controls.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Supports	Where user input is required, the product presents adequate labels or instructions for successfully providing that input.

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9

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	The product does not request redundant user-entered information in multi-step processes.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A) Applies to: WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 – Always answer 'Supports' WCAG 2.2 (obsolete and removed) - Does not apply	Supports	For WCAG 2.0, 2.1, EN 301 549, and Revised 508 Standards, the September 2023 errata update indicates this criterion is always supported. See the WCAG 2.0 Editorial Errata and the WCAG 2.1 Editorial Errata.
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	Partially Supports	In most instances, the product contains user interface components whose name, role, state, and value can be programmatically determined. Exceptions include: • Interactive controls have no accessible names. • Elements have improper role and state information. • A list of active elements is not announced as a list. • Content is announced incorrectly "word by word".

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10

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Supports	The product does not contain any live synchronized media (video with audio) that requires real-time captioning.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Supports	The product does not contain any prerecorded synchronized media (video with audio) that requires audio descriptions.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 only)	Partially Supports	The product operates only in landscape orientation. This restriction is essential to the app's core functionality and interface design; however, users who require portrait orientation may have limited flexibility.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	This success criterion does not apply to non-web software.

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11

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Partially Supports	In most instances, the visual presentation of text and images of text in the product provides a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1 against adjacent colors. Exceptions include: • Text does not meet the required minimum color contrast ratio.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	The product allows text to be resized without assistive technology up to 200 percent without loss of content or functionality.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Supports	Except for logos, the product uses text instead of images of text.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	The product allows for resizing of content to a minimum width of 320 CSS pixels or vertical height of 256 CSS pixels without loss of content or functionality, and without requiring scrolling in two dimensions

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12

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 only)	Partially Supports	In most instances, the visual presentation of non-text content in the product has a contrast ratio of at least 3:1 against adjacent color(s). Exceptions include: • User interface components have a contrast ratio below 3.00:1.
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	This success criterion does not apply to non-web software.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	Content triggered by hover or focus remains visible while triggered, remains visible while moving the pointer over it, and can be dismissed without moving the pointer or changing focus if it obscures other content.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supports	This success criterion does not apply to non-web software.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Partially Supports	The product uses headings and labels that describe their topic or purpose in most instances. Exceptions include: • VoiceOver does not announce the proper name for a button.

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13

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Supports	The product provides a visible indication of keyboard focus for elements on each screen.
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	When user interface components receive keyboard focus, they are, at minimum, partially visible.
2.5.7 Dragging Movements (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	The product does not use dragging movements for interactive functionality.
2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	The size of targets in the product meets the requirements of this criterion.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Supports	Screens of the product present content in a single language.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	This success criterion does not apply to non-web software.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	This success criterion does not apply to non-web software.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	Where the product automatically detects input errors and provides error messages, the product also provides suggestions for correcting each error.

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14

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Supports	The product does not cause financial transactions or legal commitments to occur. User-controllable data is checked before submission and can be reversed or revised after submission.
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	The product does not require an authentication process.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 only)	Partially Supports	In most instances, the product provides status messages that can be presented to assistive technologies without receiving focus. Exceptions include: • VoiceOver does not announce status messages in real time. • A status message is not implemented after selecting the correct value.

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15