

Badging is available again for assessments that have a passing score.

Northstar Digital Literacy assessments and Northstar Online Learning (NSOL) modules Accessibility Conformance Report

Based on VPAT® 2.4 WCAG 2.1 and Revised Section 508 Edition

Name of Product/Version

Northstar Digital Literacy assessments and Northstar Online Learning (NSOL) modules

Report Dates and Version

- Report Date: 8/8/2025
- Last Modified Date: 2/25/2026
- Version: 2026-4

Product Description

Northstar Digital Literacy's assessments are interactive digital literacy tests, taken online; they allow test takers to demonstrate basic computer and digital literacy skills. Northstar Online Learning (NSOL) modules provide explanations, demonstration videos, and interactive practice to support learners who are building their digital literacy skills.

Contact Information

Author Information

- Name: Jesse Morton
- Company: Northstar Digital Literacy

Vendor Information

- Name: Northstar Digital Literacy
- Company: Literacy Minnesota
- Address: 700 Raymond Ave, Suite 180, St Paul, MN 55114
- Email: support@digitalliteracyassessment.org
- Website: <https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org>

Notes

The part of Northstar Digital Literacy that this VPAT applies to is the assessments and Northstar Online Learning, i.e. content at the subdomain [https:// assessment.digitalliteracyassessment.org/](https://assessment.digitalliteracyassessment.org/)

Evaluation Methods Used

The product was evaluated from (1) internal familiarity with the technologies used to build Northstar Digital Literacy, (2) testing a number of pages of content that represent techniques used throughout Northstar Digital Literacy, and (3) reviewing feedback from organizations involved in the field of accessibility. Tools utilized include Chrome developer tools and JAWS.

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 2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A • Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA • Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA
Revised Section 508 standards published January 18, 2017 and corrected January 22, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3: Functional Performance Criteria (FPC) • Chapter 4: Hardware • Chapter 5: Software • Chapter 6: Support Documentation and Services

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 2.x Level AAA.

WCAG 2.1 Report

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A 

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Audio content that differs from text on the screen has captions available via CC button. Video content has YouTube subtitles available. Images important to the content have text explanations as alt text.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Audio-only content either duplicates text that is already on the screen, or captions for the audio can be enabled via CC button. Video-only content: occasional video-like animated GIFs have corresponding alt text to explain the purpose/lesson of the GIF.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Captions are available for audio content read by a narrator, and either Northstar-generated or YouTube-generated captions are available on videos.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Does Not Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Video content does not have a separate description of its contents, beyond the existing synced-audio recording.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Much of the content utilizes semantic markup to make relationships of content more evident. A minority of the content utilizes 3rd-party plugins that do not richly convey structure and relationships (interactive tables such as in the Excel topic's assessment and NSOL content).

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Northstar's content has a meaningful sequence, with assessment questions or NSOL modules' practice content being intentionally ordered.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Some content instructions rely on sensory characteristics (e.g. assessment orientation describing the location of parts of the screen), while others do not.
1.4.1 Use of Color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Variation of shapes/icons, as well as text-based content available to screen readers, are used as alternatives to color to convey meaning.
1.4.2 Audio Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: The audio can be muted or unmuted, and speed of audio playback is adjustable.
2.1.1 Keyboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Nearly all interactions are keyboard-usable. Exceptions relate to the Excel topic, which leverages a 3rd-party plugin that is not yet keyboard-usable for every task. Effort has been made to try to support common software shortcuts when able, e.g. Shift + F10 for opening Windows context menus.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Keyboard traps are not present.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Not Applicable 	
2.2.1 Pause, Stop, Hide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Animated GIFs and HTML animations such as slowly pulsing highlights of screen to instruct on software interfaces, can be stopped by clicking on the objects or related controls.
2.2.2 Timing Adjustable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Generally there are not time limits on assessments and NSOL content. For users that are logged in and have not interacted with the screen in an extended period of time, they may be notified their session is about to expire/end, and are told to interact with the screen if they would like to extend it.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: No content flashes at a frequency of 3+ times a second.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: ARIA landmark roles are used to signify the banner (which includes heading content), navigation, and main content.
2.4.2 Page Titled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Pages in assessments and Northstar Online Learning are titled.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.3 Focus Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Focus order within Northstar has been intentionally designed to match the visual order and expected hierarchy/sequence of components.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: While many links use imagery to emulate software that Northstar assesses and instructs on (e.g. browser buttons), text variants are provided in addition to the imagery for screen readers to interpret the meaning of the links.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Pages provide single-pointer methods of completion. Not all pages are optimized currently for mobile layout, which would simplify interactions (cf. 1.4.10 Reflow).
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Drag-and-drop behaviors revert draggable items' position if not dropped on a predefined, droppable destination.
2.5.3 Label in Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Visual labels include programmatic labels.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Not Applicable 	
3.1.1 Language of Page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Northstar assessments and NSOL are available in English and Spanish. The currently active language is determinable programmatically.
3.2.1 On Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Hover interactions do not trigger unexpected results.
3.2.2 On Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Inputs to UI components do not change context.
3.3.1 Error Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: In Northstar's NSOL content, incorrect inputs result in alerts appearing on screen encouraging the user to take certain actions to succeed. By design, Northstar's assessment content does not provide errors generally when users provide incorrect input, in order to not give away answers.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: The vast majority of Northstar uses labels and descriptions to meet this criterion. A minority of the content utilizes 3rd-party plugins that do not richly convey this information (interactive tables such as in the Excel topic's assessment and NSOL content).


Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
4.1.1 Parsing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: HTML is developed according to specifications.
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: The vast majority of Northstar meets this criterion. A minority of the content utilizes 3rd-party plugins that do not richly convey this information (interactive tables such as in the Excel topic's assessment and NSOL content).


Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA 


Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Not Applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: No live videos are displayed in Northstar's assessments and NSOL content.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Does Not Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Audio description augmenting the audio track, to provide information about actions, characters, scene changes, and on-screen text, is unavailable.
1.3.4 Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Northstar is built to be mobile-responsive, and does not restrict the content's ability to adapt to changes in orientation.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Northstar Online Learning profile form supports.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: High-contrast mode is offered through a user-profile setting in Northstar Online Learning, as well as in the assessment and NSOL player interfaces via a sunbeam icon.
1.4.4 Resize text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Zooming into Northstar is an option, though with the criterion's 200% zoom standard, some content is slightly cut off and may present problems, while some other placements of content may be out of alignment. A smaller zoom of 150% is less problematic.
1.4.5 Images of Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: While much of the content uses text instead of imagery, practical limitations have led to maintaining imagery in the case of some emulated websites via screenshots and some emulated-software (e.g. Apple's App Store emulation).

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.4.10 Reflow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Various of Northstar's topics are available as mobile-responsive and therefore show expected content when resized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Phone Keyboard Basics & Logging In - assessment ◦ Basic Computer Skills - assessment and NSOL ◦ Using Email - assessment ◦ Internet Basics - assessment and NSOL ◦ Telehealth - assessment and NSOL ◦ Cybersecurity Basics - assessment <p>Some Northstar topics are in progress or are optimized for desktop-sized experience only and do not provide disclosure widgets, pop-ups, or links to other views.</p>
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: High-contrast mode is offered through a user-profile setting in Northstar Online Learning, as well as in the assessment and NSOL player interfaces via a sunbeam icon.
1.4.12 Text Spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: The majority of Northstar can support increased settings of text spacing without issue. Clipping or wrapping occurs in some situations where the regular-sized content was already near a limit of UI sizing/spacing/positioning.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Some UI elements show additional content on hover, such as for tooltips or the replay-audio button's playback controls. Both of these elements are dismissable via Escape key, otherwise persistent, meeting 2 of 3 criteria for this item. The audio-replay's playback controls are further hoverable, meeting the 3rd criteria. The 3rd-party tooltip utility we use does not support hovering over the text in the currently used version; however, the areas in Northstar where we use these tooltips are typically non-essential.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: We provide a navigation menu within the assessments and NSOL as one way of navigating, and NSOL's dashboard contains other views to navigate to the desired content. The other standard way of navigating within content is via the Next button or response options when completing individual pages' tasks. Northstar's content is generally sequential in nature, being assessment questions or practice that builds upon concepts taught on previous slides.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: The vast majority of Northstar has meaningful headings and labels. A minority of the content utilizes 3rd-party plugins that do not richly convey this information (interactive tables such as in the Excel topic's assessment and NSOL content).

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.7 Focus Visible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Northstar allows browser user agents' automatic display of halos/highlights of focused components.
3.1.2 Language of Parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Not Applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Change of language (e.g. some remaining English text within the Spanish version of Northstar) is not identifiable as different from Spanish in a programmatic way. However, in practice this is not significant because all relevant content is translated in whatever language the user's preference is set to. In rare cases where there may be a change of language, it is placeholder text that can be ignored.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Navigation menu is predictable in its display of links and current page.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Identification of pages' parts, including navigation menu and its parts statuses, is consistent across pages.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Errors in NSOL content result in suggestions to the user for how to correctly accomplish the practice task.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Not Applicable 	
4.1.3 Status Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web: Corrective suggestions in NSOL utilize role="alert". Occasionally other tips or errors are shown via "toast" messages in upper-right corner, which utilize aria-live="polite" and role="alertdialog".

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA 

Revised Section 508 Report 

Chapter 3: Functional Performance Criteria (FPC) 

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
302.1 Without Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northstar's text-based content is generally screen-reader friendly, with the main exception of some drag-and-drop behaviors and a 3rd-party plugin used for emulation of Excel software. Some of the content is video-based with an audio track synced to the video, but not an audio description of all the video's contents. Video-only content: occasional video-like animated GIFs have corresponding alt text to explain the purpose/lesson of the GIF.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
302.2 With Limited Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoom is possible within Northstar, ~150% without quality loss. Videos in NSOL content can be made full-screen if desired. A full-screen mode for the Northstar UI is also available to make the best use of the screen.
302.3 Without Perception of Color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Color is not used as the sole indicator of content to be interacted with or to gain information from.
302.4 Without Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Captions are provided for videos, and for audio narration where it differs from the text content already on the screen.
302.5 With Limited Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Besides the captions mentioned for 302.4 above, Northstar content supports replaying audio and playing audio at varying speeds.
302.6 Without Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable 	
302.7 With Limited Manipulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northstar does not require fine motor control or simultaneous manual operation beyond what may be required by software that Northstar emulates. Even in those cases, generally keyboard usability is an option instead of mouse-only; there are exceptions to keyboard usability, such as some content assessing drag-and-drop operations.
302.8 With Limited Reach and Strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mouse and keyboard interaction are sufficient for Northstar usage.
302.9 With Limited Language, Cognitive, and Learning Abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northstar aims to use intermediate-or-lower language level for text, allows users to ask their subscribing location's staff for clarifications of content, and directs users on what to practice when they do not pass Northstar assessments, if they have a learner account at one of Northstar's subscribing locations. Northstar itself then offers guided assistance when users unsuccessfully complete NSOL content.

Chapter 4: Hardware

Chapter 5: Software

Chapter 6: Support Documentation and Services

Legal Disclaimer (Literacy Minnesota)

To the best of our knowledge, the information in this document is accurate. By your use of this document, you agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Literacy Minnesota (of which Northstar Digital Literacy is a program) and its subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, employees and agents as well as any third-party providers of Northstar Digital Literacy, from any claim, demand, or damage, including reasonable attorneys' fees, arising out of or related to your use of this document. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at support@digitalliteracyassessment.org

[Return to top](#)

[OpenACR](#) is a format maintained by the [GSA](#). The content is the responsibility of the author.

ABOUT

[Overview](#)

[News](#)

[FAQs](#)

FEATURES

[Assessments](#)

[Northstar Online Learning \(NSOL\)](#)

[Curriculum](#)

[Northstar Standards](#)

PRICING

[Pricing](#)

[Joining](#)

[Benefits](#)

[Tiers](#)

BUILD YOUR SKILLS

[Ways to Build Your Skills](#)

[Map](#)

[Why Take at a Northstar Location?](#)

CONTACT US

SOLUTIONS

[Medicare Advantage](#)

GET SOCIAL WITH US

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter / X](#)

[YouTube](#)

© 2012-2026 NDL • Northstar is a program of Literacy Minnesota

[Accessibility](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Terms of Service](#) • [Northstar Location Agreement](#)

Northstar Digital Literacy
A program of Literacy Minnesota
700 Raymond Avenue, Suite 180
St. Paul, MN 55114