![NORTHSTAR DIGITAL LITERACY - A program of Literacy Minnesota]

Northstar Digital Literacy Accessibility Conformance Report
Revised Section 508 Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.4Rev)

Name of Product/Version:

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

Report Date:

August 2022

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:

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Notes:

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

Evaluation Methods Used:

An internal evaluation of Northstar Digital Literacy's behaviors from general familiarity with the product's features.

Remarks and Explanations:

Northstar Digital Literacy requires a modern web browser (Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Edge, IE11).

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)
Revised Section 508 standards published January 18, 2017 and corrected January 22, 2018	(Yes)

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 2.0 Level AAA.

WCAG 2.0 Report

Tables 1 and 2 also document conformance with Revised Section 508:

- Chapter 5 – 501.1 Scope, 504.2 Content Creation or Editing
- Chapter 6 – 602.3 Electronic Support Documentation

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.0 Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the WCAG 2.0 Conformance Requirements.

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations

1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Supports	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) (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Supports	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) (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Supports	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) (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Does Not Support	Video content does not have a separate description of its contents, beyond the existing synced-audio recording.

1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Partially supports	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).

1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Supports	Northstar's content has a meaningful sequence.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations

1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Partially supports	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 (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Supports	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 (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Supports	Audio can be stopped/started, as well as the general audio volume set to muted/ unmuted.

2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Partially supports	While most interactions are keyboard-usable, there are exceptions, primarily some drag-and-drop actions. Many drag-and-drop actions do allow for keyboard-based alternative, however, through a dropdown menu mechanism.

2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Supports	Keyboard traps are not present.

2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Supports	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.

2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Partially supports	Some animated GIFs and instructional animation (e.g. music notes coming out of computer graphic's speakers to denote sound) do not have controls. In such case, the animations were designed to be calm/slow enough to not be overwhelming.
		
		Other animations such as slowly pulsing highlights of screen to instruct on software interfaces, can be stopped by clicking on the section of the interface.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Supports	No content flashes at a frequency of 3+ times a second.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs	Supports	ARIA landmark roles are used to signify the banner (which includes heading content), navigation, and main content.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Does Not Support	Northstar's assessments and NSOL pages are uniquely identified in their heading (h1) contents and in the navigation bar's page descriptions, though do not currently update their page titles. Northstar assessments and NSOL content are not intended to be indexable/searchable via search engines or elsewhere within our website and have a mostly sequential character.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Supports	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) (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Supports	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.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Supports	Northstar assessments and NSOL are available in English and currently a limited amount in Spanish. The currently active language is determinable programmatically.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations

3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Partially supports	Interactions generally would not trigger unexpected results, and so would almost always satisfy this criterion. There may be some select instances where hover/focus of certain components equates to successful completion of a question, and so the user may be automatically moved to the next slide.

3.2.2 On Input (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Supports	Inputs to UI components do not change context.

3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Supports	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 (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Partially supports	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).

4.1.1 Parsing (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Supports	HTML is developed according to specifications.

4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)
Also applies to:
Revised Section 508
   • 501 (Web)(Software)
   • 504.2 (Authoring Tool)
   • 602.3 (Support Docs)
	Partially supports	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

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Not applicable	No live videos are displayed in Northstar's assessments and NSOL content.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Does not support	Audio description augmenting the audio track, to provide information about actions, characters, scene changes, and on-screen text, is unavailable.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Partially supports	Most core content has sufficient contrast. Select portions of the screen may not.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Does not support	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 (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Partially supports	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).
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs	Supports	A navigable menu is provided. Much of the assessments and NSOL content is the result of sequential steps, as well.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Partially supports	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).
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Supports	Northstar allows browser user agents' automatic display of halos/highlights of focused components.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Does not support	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.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs	Supports	Navigation menu is predictable in its display of links and current page.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs	Supports	Identification of pages' parts, including navigation menu and its parts statuses, is consistent across pages.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Supports	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) (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs)	Not applicable	

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Notes:

Chapter 3: [Functional Performance Criteria](#) (FPC)

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
302.1 Without Vision	Partially supports	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.
302.2 With Limited Vision	Partially supports	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	Supports	Color is not used as the sole indicator of content to be interacted with or to gain information from.
302.4 Without Hearing	Supports	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	Supports	Besides the captions mentioned for 302.4 above, Northstar content supports replaying audio and playing audio at varying speeds.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
302.6 Without Speech	Not applicable	
302.7 With Limited Manipulation	Partially supports	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	Supports	Mouse and keyboard interaction are sufficient for Northstar usage.
302.9 With Limited Language, Cognitive, and Learning Abilities	Supports	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 Northstar itself offers guided assistance when users unsuccessfully complete NSOL content, and direct users on what to practice when they do not pass Northstar assessments.

Chapter 4: Hardware

Notes: This section does not apply to Northstar where it is web-based software.

Chapter 5: Software

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
501.1 Scope – Incorporation of WCAG 2.0 AA	See WCAG 2.x section	See information in WCAG 2.x section
502 Interoperability with Assistive Technology	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
502.2.1 User Control of Accessibility Features	Supports	Accessibility features are always available for end users and do not require explicit enabling by an administrator.
502.2.2 No Disruption of Accessibility Features	Supports	Accessibility features are built into the core of Northstar itself and do not rely upon some 3rd-party technology that may have outages.
502.3 Accessibility Services	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
502.3.1 Object Information	Partially supports	ARIA attributes are used across many aspects of Northstar's UI and its emulated interfaces. A minority of the content utilizes a 3rd-party plugin that does not richly convey structure, relationship, state, etc. (interactive tables such as in the Excel topic's assessment and NSOL content).
502.3.2 Modification of Object Information	Partially supports	Objects are generally keyboard usable and include assistive technology data via ARIA attributes where applicable. A minority of the content utilizes a 3rd-party plugin that does not richly convey structure, relationship, state, etc. (interactive tables such as in the Excel topic's assessment and NSOL content).
502.3.3 Row, Column, and Headers	Partially supports	Northstar generally uses semantic table markup to satisfy this criterion. A minority of the content utilizes a 3rd-party plugin for interactive data tables (for Excel topic) that satisfies this criterion for displaying information but not for editing the information.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
502.3.4 Values	Supports	Northstar uses markup standards that make these values programmatically determinable.
502.3.5 Modification of Values	Partially supports	Northstar generally uses semantic table markup to satisfy this criterion. A minority of the content utilizes a 3rd-party plugin for interactive data tables (for Excel topic) that does not well satisfy this criterion.
502.3.6 Label Relationships	Supports	Labels are well structured.
502.3.7 Hierarchical Relationships	Supports	Northstar uses markup standards that satisfy this criterion.
502.3.8 Text	Supports	Northstar uses markup standards that satisfy this criterion.
502.3.9 Modification of Text	Partially supports	Northstar generally uses semantic table markup to satisfy this criterion. A minority of the content utilizes a 3rd-party plugin for interactive data tables (for Excel topic) that does not well satisfy this criterion.
502.3.10 List of Actions	Does not support	While Northstar's methodology of interaction with elements attempts to mimic the software that is being emulated (Ctrl + X to cut content in MS Office topics), no explicit list is provided on the elements.
502.3.11 Actions on Objects	Partially supports	Northstar generally satisfies this criterion. Some actions are only able to be done via mouse in the case of drag-and-drop operations.
502.3.12 Focus Cursor	Supports	User agent defaults of halos/highlighting focused elements are reflected in interface.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
502.3.13 Modification of Focus Cursor	Partially supports	Northstar generally satisfies this criterion. In exceptional cases, as when testing user's knowledge of keyboard commands, Northstar has special behaviors based on the button a user clicks, changing the default expectation of what may happen when user presses the Tab key (i.e. awarded credit or no credit, as opposed to the typical shifting focus to the next element in tab order)
502.3.14 Event Notification	Supports	Northstar uses markup standards that satisfy this criterion.
502.4 Platform Accessibility Features	Not applicable	Northstar is not an operating system platform to support such features, but may be influenced by such features' settings on the end users' operating system.
503 Applications	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
503.2 User Preferences	Not applicable	As a web application, Northstar is somewhat isolated from the underlying operating system software.
503.3 Alternative User Interfaces	Not applicable	No alternative user interface provided
503.4 User Controls for Captions and Audio Description	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
503.4.1 Caption Controls	Supports	Northstar provides a closed caption button near the mute/unmute button.
503.4.2 Audio Description Controls	Does not support	No secondary audio descriptions are available beyond the captions of prerecorded synced video.
504 Authoring Tools	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
504.2 Content Creation or Editing (if not authoring tool, enter "not applicable")	See WCAG 2.x section	See information in WCAG 2.x section

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
504.2.1 Preservation of Information Provided for Accessibility in Format Conversion	Not applicable	Northstar is not an authoring tool
504.2.2 PDF Export	Not applicable	Northstar is not an authoring tool
504.3 Prompts	Not applicable	Northstar is not an authoring tool
504.4 Templates	Not applicable	Northstar is not an authoring tool

Chapter 6: Support Documentation and Services

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
601.1 Scope	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
602 Support Documentation	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
602.2 Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Does not support	Northstar currently does not have separate documentation of accessibility and compatibility features.
602.3 Electronic Support Documentation	See WCAG 2.x section	See information in WCAG 2.x section
602.4 Alternate Formats for Non-Electronic Support Documentation	Not applicable	Support documentation/ service for Northstar is done electronically.
603 Support Services	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
603.2 Information on Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Supports	Upon request, Northstar addresses questions surrounding accessibility and compatibility.
603.3 Accommodation of Communication Needs	Supports	If needed, Northstar could communicate in another way than email support channel for accommodating the communication needs of individuals with disabilities

Legal Disclaimer (Northstar Digital Literacy)

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 project) 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.

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