ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIES
2023-2026

SelfDesign®

LEARNING
FOUNDATION

Our plan (2023–2026)

Overview

This Accessibility Plan shows SelfDesign's priorities from September 2023 to August 2026. The plan is based on the accessibility principles of adaptability, collaboration, diversity, inclusion, self-determination and universal design, as set out in the Accessible British Columbia Act.

Accessibility Priorities

General

1 **IDENTIFICATION OF ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS**

SelfDesign is committed to identifying accessibility barriers, so that it has a comprehensive understanding of the accessibility barriers. This would be accomplished through various mechanisms, which may include an accessibility audit, surveying SelfDesign's stakeholders, gathering information through feedback mechanisms, and obtaining advice from accessibility consultants and the accessibility committee.

2 **DEVELOPMENT OF SELFDESIGN'S OWN ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE**

SelfDesign will develop its own Accessibility Committee in fall 2023. Currently, SelfDesign is part of the Accessibility Committee put together by the Associate Member Society/Federation of Independent School Association (AMS/FISA). In developing SelfDesign's committee, the following actions will need to be done: recruitment and selection of committee members, terms of reference for the committee including its purpose and expectations, and regular meetings. The committee will contribute to SelfDesign's accessibility initiative by advising on ways to address accessibility barriers.

3 **BRANDING**

SelfDesign will review its branding guidelines to ensure content is accessible. For instance, colour contrast is critical for accessibility.

4 **PLAIN LANGUAGE**

SelfDesign will prioritize the use of plain language for its communications. SelfDesign has identified that some communications for parents and learners needs to be more accessible based on feedback from parents and learners.

Our plan (2023–2026)

5   **ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS TRAINING**

SelfDesign will provide accessibility awareness training as it is an integral step in making SelfDesign's learning community more accessible.

Educational Programming

6   **UNIVERSAL DESIGN**

In SelfDesign Learning Community's (SDLC) approach to curriculum development, universal design of instruction (UDI) principles continues to be embedded in its learning model. The philosophy looks at engaging diverse learners with strategies that benefit all learners. SelfDesign will focus on how learners are acquired, engaged, and guided, using UDI so SelfDesign is more accessible to a variety of learners and helps foster a culture of understanding of the diverse nature of SelfDesign's learning community.

SelfDesign is committed to creating and providing events, programs, and services designed right from the start with every learner in mind. Removing previous obstacles and providing a flexible curriculum allow for accessibility and extend the opportunities that will challenge learners.

SelfDesign will further explore creating materials and opportunities for learners in grades 6-9, incorporating universal design principles, to help them prepare for the approach to learning used in SDLC in grades 10-12.

7   **ACCESSIBILITY TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS**

SelfDesign will provide training in neurodiversity and accessibility for its educators who deliver educational programming, to ensure an inclusive experience for all learners.

8   **TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES FOR LEARNERS**

SelfDesign will explore further use of accessibility tools in its learning platform and other learning applications, including assistive technology extensions.

9   **REVIEW OF ACCESSIBILITY OVERLAYS**

SelfDesign will embed accessibility into the HomeLearners Network website.

Our plan (2023–2026)

Technology

10 **WEBSITE LAYOUTS**

SelfDesign will include basic accessibility features when refreshing its public-facing website in Fall 2023. It will also implement the following changes to additional areas of its online platform:

- Ensure that all headings and subheadings are labelled appropriately
- Images have alternative text
- Ensure that the site colours have enough contrast to be seen and read properly
- Communications are in plain language
- Links are described

11 **VIDEO CONFERENCING**

SelfDesign will explore and where feasible implement automatic captioning for video calls. Currently, automatic closed captioning is not enabled on Zoom video conference calls which cause barriers to people with hearing loss or those with English as a second language, amongst others.

12 **SURVEYS**

SelfDesign will use a survey tool that meets appropriate accessibility standards.

13 **MULTIMEDIA INPUT**

SelfDesign will expand the methods that people can provide feedback on the Accessibility Plan and engage with SelfDesign. Currently people need to submit feedback or inquiries through text or by placing a phone call, and accessibility will be increased if we allow for image and video submissions as well.