

2024-2034 Accessibility, Safety and Security Plan

Introduction

The Accessibility, Safety, and Security Plan provides a roadmap for El Camino College to further its accessibility, safety, and security initiatives to support the 2024-2034 Comprehensive Integrated Plan. This plan will also assist El Camino College in meeting program and facility-related requirements under federal disability nondiscrimination laws and support a safe and secure learning environment for all students, employees, and visitors.

The recommendations in this plan and the related appendices are based on a review of current El Camino College policies and Emergency Operations Plan, quantitative data analysis, risk accessibility assessments, and extensive interviews with members of the El Camino community.

A Transition Plan Working Group was established by the District. The Working Group was integral to the review of safety and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance. An on-site review included a walk-through of all buildings at all ECC locations (the main campus, Business Training Center, and Fire Academy) and an assessment of the information security infrastructure, and access control systems. The assessment included a Clery Act compliance check and dialogue with various campus constituents.

This process created detailed project plans that serve as “living documents” to guide El Camino’s future efforts to meet legal requirements and to support the 2024-2034 Comprehensive Integrated Plan goals through initiatives aligned with the CIP’s Facilities, People, and Technology Plans.

Applicable Laws and Legislative Requirements

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance.

Section 504 provides:

“No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance....”¹

The regulations implementing Section 504 require, among other things, that recipients of federal financial assistance conduct a Self-Evaluation of structural barriers that may deny access due to the physical environment. Where structural barriers are identified, 34 C.F.R. part 104.22 requires the development of a Transition Plan. This plan describes the structural barriers, specifies the

¹ <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/oasam/centers-offices/civil-rights-center/statutes/section-504-rehabilitation-act-of-1973>

2024-2034 Accessibility, Safety and Security Plan

steps that will be taken to address those barriers, sets forth the timetable for barrier removal, and identifies the official responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Transition Plan.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a comprehensive national civil rights law that protects the rights of persons with disabilities in employment and the provision of goods and services. El Camino Community College District, as a public entity, is an ADA Title II public entity that has an ongoing obligation to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from programs and services because facilities are unusable or inaccessible to them.

This plan is intended to assist the District in meeting program and facility-related requirements under federal disability nondiscrimination laws and to provide a framework for El Camino College to prepare policies, guidelines, and training designed to prepare Campus constituents (students, employees, and visitors) for a more secure Campus environment.

Goals and Integration with the CIP

The activities in this Accessibility, Safety, and Security Plan will support the following goals.

Goal #1: Mitigate barriers to an accessible teaching and learning environment, life, and property.

Goal #2: Establish protocols and prepare plans to respond promptly and protect lives and infrastructure assets in the event of a disaster or emergency situation

Goal #3: Enhance processes to provide students and staff with disabilities with the type of assistance they require in an emergency.

Goal #4: Define, develop, and implement information security policies and procedures that address current and possible future risks to cyber information handling and protection

Goal #5: Enhance District-wide accessibility, security, and emergency response awareness and education

Goal #6: Integrate accessibility and security into planning, design, construction, and day-to-day operations

These goals and their related activities align with the broader CIP priorities. The safety and security initiatives in this plan will support the implementation of the CIP's *Culture of Inclusion* Theme Goal #8, "Cultivate a culture of safety & campus security." Plans to enhance accessibility services will support CIP's *Student Learning & Experience* Theme Goal #1, "Ensure equitable access to a holistic range of learning & support services." Addressing the accessibility, safety, and security needs of students, employees, and visitors will enhance the CIP's *Culture of Inclusion* Theme Goal #7, which aims to "Provide opportunities to foster community & sense of belonging."

2024-2034 Accessibility, Safety and Security Plan

As much as possible, the Accessibility, Safety, and Security Plan has coordinated its activities and goals with the activities and goals of other related plans, such as the Facilities and Technology Plans. The appendices of this plan identify physical barriers and deficiencies, priorities, rough order-of-magnitude costs, and a plan for implementation. The Facilities Plan has assigned planned completion dates to actions documented in this plan, with compliance items determined to be the highest priority to address identified for corrective action early in the Plan and others in later phases. In addition, the activities related to this plan also supports Goal #5 of the 2024-27 Technology Plan, which aims to “Create a Culture of Cybersecurity, Data Resiliency, and Business Intelligence,” and Goal #1 to “Increase Equity and Access” to information technology.

While El Camino’s rapid campus growth can create new accessibility and security challenges, building construction and renovation, as well as engaging El Camino campus constituents, can present opportunities to improve accessibility, implement more effective security measures, and enhance the campus experience to foster community and a sense of belonging.