Section 508 Compliance Checklist (Level AA) by Priority

Remediating accessibility issues should be guided by the impact on users with disabilities, legal risk, and the frequency and scope of the issue. Below, the checklist items are categorized as **High**, **Medium**, or **Low** priority for remediation, based on best practices and expert guidance.

High Priority Remediation

These issues create significant barriers, block access to content or functionality, or are most likely to result in legal risk. Address these first:

- **Keyboard Accessibility**
    - All functionality is operable via keyboard
    - No keyboard traps
    - Logical tab/focus order
- **Text Alternatives**
    - Alt text for all non-text content (images, icons, charts)
    - Detailed descriptions for complex images
    - Text alternative for embedded applications such as a GIS map that may work correctly on mobile applications or low speed internet.
- **Navigation & Structure**
    - Skip navigation links
    - Clear and descriptive page titles
    - Headings and labels describe the topic or purpose
    - Logical reading and focus order
- **Color Contrast & Visual Presentation**
    - Sufficient color contrast (minimum 4.5:1 for text)
    - No reliance on color alone to convey meaning
- **Input Assistance**
    - Identify and describe input errors
    - Labels or instructions for user input
- **Assistive Technology Compatibility**
    - Name, role, and value of UI components programmatically determinable
    - Status messages announced by assistive tech
- **Time-based Media**
    - Captions for all video content

- o Transcripts for audio-only content
- **Blockers to Content**
  - o Any issue that prevents users from accessing or completing key tasks (e.g., inaccessible forms, navigation, or authentication)

Medium Priority Remediation

These issues cause inconvenience or difficulty but do not completely block access. Address these after high-priority items:

- **Adaptable Content**
  - o Content structure and relationships are programmatically determinable
  - o Content presented in a meaningful order
  - o Instructions do not rely solely on sensory characteristics
  - o Animations, video, and moving content does not autostart and can be paused
- **Consistent UI**
  - o Menus and controls are positioned consistently
  - o Components with the same function are identified consistently
  - o Elements do not change unexpectedly on focus or input
  - o Content is usable on all devices and screen sizes
- **Text Resizing & Spacing**
  - o Text can be resized up to 200% without loss of content/functionality, and does not overlap, cut off, or disappear
  - o Text spacing can be adjusted
  - o Font is readable
  - o Text follows an appropriate visual hierarchy
- **Multiple Ways to Find Content**
  - o At least two ways to locate pages (navigation, search, sitemap)
- **Orientation**
  - o Application orientation is not restricted unless essential
- **Autocomplete**
  - o Input fields use proper autocomplete attributes

Low Priority Remediation

These issues have a lower impact on accessibility or are enhancements that improve usability but are not critical for access:

- **Audio Descriptions for Video**
  - Audio descriptions for pre-recorded video (unless essential for understanding)
- **Hover/Focus Content**
  - Content that appears on hover/focus is dismissible, hoverable, and persistent
- **Gesture Alternatives**
  - Drag-and-drop and gesture-based actions have accessible alternatives
- **Animated Content**
  - Web pages should not contain anything that flashes more than three times in one second or fast strobing actions that could induce seizures.
- **Language of Parts**
  - Language of foreign phrases or sections is identified
- **Character Key Shortcuts**
  - Can be turned off or remapped
- **Time Out Settings**
  - Ensure sites accessed through a login provide enough time to complete the action before a session times out.
  - Captcha settings allow enough time for a person with a disability to complete the action.

Additional Guidance

- **Address complaints and user-reported issues immediately.**
- **Focus on high-traffic pages and templates first** to maximize impact.
- **Fix issues that repeat across multiple pages** (e.g., navigation, headers, footers) for broad improvement.
- **Quick wins:** Simple fixes (like adding missing alt text) can be addressed in parallel with more complex issues.

Summary Table

Priority	Examples of Issues
High	Keyboard access, alt text, navigation, color contrast, input errors, captions
Medium	Consistent UI, text resizing, multiple navigation methods, orientation, autocomplete
Lower	Audio descriptions, hover/focus content, gesture alternatives, language of parts

This prioritization ensures that the most critical barriers are removed first, improving access for users with disabilities and reducing legal risk.