

School Board Members

Mary M. Benjamin
Jason L. Brown, II
Dr. Elaine J. Pearson
Barbara T. Pittman
Dwayne G. Walker



Superintendent
Dr. Kari Weston

Clerk of the Board
Elizabeth H. Raney

Dinwiddie County Public Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dinwiddie County Public Schools – HB2278 Accessibility Report

Executive Summary

In accordance with Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Dinwiddie County Public Schools (DCPS) completed a comprehensive review of the physical accessibility of all school buildings and grounds for individuals with disabilities. In addition to this present-day review, DCPS was able to consult the following independent reports:

- 2006 School Division Efficiency Review, conducted by MGT of America, Inc.
- 2009 Dinwiddie Stadium Master Plan, completed by Moseley Architects
- 2016 Facility Condition Assessment, completed by RRMM Architects

As required, these documents collectively addressed: (i) physical accessibility challenges in all school buildings and grounds with the exception of Dinwiddie High School, Sutherland Elementary School and the Spring Sports Field House (all three facilities were constructed following the current ADA Standards for Accessible Design); (ii) challenges in access to programming and support; (iii) the plan to eliminate barriers; and (iv) how state agencies can assist.

This report affirms that:

1. DCPS facilities were constructed in compliance with the building codes in effect at the time of the original construction.
2. All subsequent new construction, renovations and additions meet current accessibility standards, including the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the corresponding required ADA Standards for Accessible Design during the renovation year.
3. DCPS has annual processes that support our commitment to ongoing review and improvement.

Methodology of Review

DCPS conducted a comprehensive, facility-by-facility review of all schools, including grounds and athletic facilities. Our review was guided by the methodology of the U.S. Government Accountability Office's June 2020 report (GAO-20-448), "K-12 EDUCATION: School Districts Need Better Information to Improve Physical Accessibility of School Facilities," as recommended by the legislation. We also reviewed division-wide efficiency

reviews, master plans and facility assessments conducted from 2006-2016 by MGT of America, Inc., Moseley Architects and RRMM Architects respectively:

1. **Current Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), including the Virginia Construction Code (VCC), the Virginia Existing Building Code (VEBC), and referenced ICC A117.1 – as well as the 2011 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.** We assessed all facilities against current accessibility requirements for any alterations or new construction undertaken since their original build date.
2. **Original Construction Codes and the Virginia Maintenance Code (VMC), as applicable:** We confirmed that each school building and its original components were constructed in compliance with the Virginia USBC and other applicable state and federal codes in effect at the time of construction.

Summary of Findings

After a thorough review, DCPS confirms that our facilities meet the building codes that applied at the time of their original construction. In addition, all later new construction, renovations or additions have been carried out in accordance with the Virginia USBC and ADA standards in place at the time of each project.

Aligned with HB2278's intent to assess present conditions rather than only historical compliance, we recognize that our buildings were designed to meet the up-to-date requirements at their construction dates, and that subsequent improvements have aimed to satisfy applicable code and ADA provisions. This planning assessment also identifies opportunities to further strengthen accessibility for students, staff, and visitors.

Proactive Accessibility Action Plan

Dinwiddie County Public Schools integrates ongoing accessibility improvements into the annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process in conjunction with the Dinwiddie County Government. Each year, DCPS facilities are assessed with a focus on removing barriers that limit participation in school programs and activities for individuals with disabilities. The findings from these assessments guide the CIP request process and planning and help in prioritizing projects for funding recommendations.

Inputs to the Annual CIP

- **Administrator Feedback:** Program access concerns and site-specific observations
- **Facilities Department Assessments:** Building conditions and barrier identification
- **Capital Needs:** Lifecycle planning, project bundling, and cost analysis
- **Security Considerations:** Ingress, egress and operational constraints

Screening and Prioritization

- Evaluate safety, accessibility, impact on students and staff, feasibility, and funding alignment
- Develop preliminary project scopes and order-of-magnitude cost estimates for CIP review

DCPS updates this planning framework annually as part of the CIP cycle to incorporate current conditions, stakeholder feedback, and available resources.

Conclusion

Dinwiddie County Public Schools remains dedicated to fostering safe, inclusive, and accessible learning and extracurricular environments for all students, staff and visitors. This report verifies our adherence to all relevant codes and presents a clear plan for ongoing improvements. To fulfill the objectives of HB2278 and guarantee access for all, DCPS respectfully seeks targeted support from the Virginia General Assembly. Sustainable advancement depends on pairing new requirements with the resources needed to meet them, while avoiding funding mandates. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with state agencies to enhance accessibility throughout every public school in the Commonwealth of Virginia.