



Surry County Public Schools

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HB2278 Accessibility Report

October 24, 2025

Executive Summary

In compliance with Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Surry County Public Schools (SCPS) has completed a review of the physical accessibility of all division facilities and grounds for individuals with disabilities.

In addition to the present-day evaluation, SCPS referenced previous facility walk-throughs and maintenance records to establish a baseline understanding of building conditions and accessibility. This report addresses:

1. Key Findings related to physical accessibility challenges in school buildings and grounds.
2. SCPS' annual process that supports our commitment to ongoing review and improvement.
3. Recommended areas for support from state agencies and local partners.

This report confirms that:

1. SCPS facilities were constructed in compliance with the building codes in effect at the time of their original construction.
2. All new construction, renovations, and additions since have met current accessibility standards, including the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
3. SCPS maintains an ongoing commitment to accessibility through annual reviews, planning, and facility updates.

Methodology of Review

Surry County Public Schools conducted a school-by-school review of all educational, administrative, and athletic properties in addition to a shelter assessment completed by the American Red Cross. This evaluation was informed by the methodology outlined in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's 2020 report "*K-12 Education: School Districts Need Better Information to Improve Physical Accessibility of School Facilities*" and by the intent of HB2278.

The review included:

- 1. Assessment Standards:**

Each building and site was compared to requirements set forth in the current Virginia USBC, Virginia Construction Code (VCC), and Virginia Existing Building Code (VEBC), referencing ICC A117.1 and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

- 2. Construction Codes:**

Each school's original design meets applicable federal and state codes at the time of construction. Updates and renovations have followed subsequent ADA and USBC guidance.

- 3. Facility Walkthroughs and Staff Feedback:**

School-based staff, maintenance personnel, and administrators contributed feedback on areas of concern, such as entrances, restrooms, circulation routes, playgrounds, and program access.

- 4. Accessibility Metrics:**

Data was compiled regarding ramps, door widths, restroom modifications, and accessible parking across all school sites.

Summary of Findings

Following this review, SCPS affirms that all facilities are in compliance with applicable codes for their time of construction and subsequent renovations.

Key Findings:

- Buildings meet ADA requirements for doorways, restrooms, and ramps.
- Interior wayfinding, lighting, and acoustics in older facilities could be improved to assist individuals with sensory needs.
- Athletic fields and playgrounds at select sites may require updates to ensure equal access for students with mobility limitations.

Proactive Accessibility Action Plan

SCPS integrates accessibility improvements within its annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to ensure systematic progress toward universal design. This plan prioritizes barrier removal, compliance, and enhancements that promote inclusion.

Inputs to the Annual CIP

- Administrator and Staff Feedback: Identifying barriers to program access.
- Facilities Department Assessments: Evaluating structural and mechanical accessibility features.
- Capital and Maintenance Planning: Aligning projects with funding availability and long-term lifecycle management.
- Safety and Security Reviews: Ensuring accessibility measures support emergency egress and safe circulation.

Screening and Prioritization

Projects are prioritized using an evaluation that considers:

- Safety and accessibility impact.
- Frequency of use and affected populations.
- Cost, feasibility, and alignment with CIP funding cycles.
- Opportunities for state or federal grant assistance.

SCPS updates this planning framework annually to include stakeholder input, current facility data, and emerging best practices in inclusive design.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Surry County Public Schools remains deeply committed to ensuring that all facilities are safe, inclusive, and accessible for every student, staff member, and visitor. The division acknowledges the evolving nature of accessibility standards and strives to exceed compliance by fostering environments that welcome and empower all learners.

To meet the objectives of HB2278, SCPS respectfully requests continued collaboration and support from the Virginia Department of Education and the General Assembly. Sustainable progress depends on aligning accessibility goals with adequate funding to avoid unfunded mandates.

Surry County Public Schools welcomes opportunities to partner with state agencies, advocacy organizations, and local governments to ensure equal access for all members of our community.