

Charles City County Public Schools-HB2278 Accessibility Report

Executive Summary

In accordance with Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Charles City County Public Schools (CCPS) completed a comprehensive review of the physical accessibility of all school buildings and grounds for individuals with disabilities. As required, this review addresses: (i) physical accessibility challenges in school buildings and grounds; (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. CCPS facilities were constructed in compliance with the building codes in effect at the time of their original construction.
2. All renovations and additions meet current accessibility standards, including the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design; and
3. CCPS has annual processes that support our commitment to ongoing review and improvement.

Methodology of Review

CCPS 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.

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 2010 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.
3. **Facility Walkthroughs and Staff Feedback:** School-based staff, maintenance personnel, and administrators contributed feedback on areas of concern, such as entrances, restrooms, 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

After a thorough review, CCPS confirms that our facilities meet the building codes that applied at the time of their original construction. In addition, all later renovations 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 requirements current 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, families, and visitors.

Proactive Accessibility Action Plan

Charles City County Public Schools integrates ongoing accessibility improvements into its annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process. Some past CIP projects that were designed to remove accessibility barriers at CCPS include the addition of a sensory ADA playground at the elementary school as well as additional ADA parking spaces at the high school and athletic complex. Each year, this process assesses facilities with a focus on removing barriers that limit participation in school programs and activities for individuals with disabilities. The findings guide CIP planning and help prioritize 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 & 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

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

Conclusion

Charles City County Public Schools remains dedicated to fostering safe, inclusive, and accessible learning environments for every student. 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, CCPS respectfully seeks targeted support from the Virginia General Assembly. Sustainable advancement depends on pairing new requirements with the resources needed to meet them, avoiding unfunded mandates. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with state agencies to enhance accessibility throughout every public school in the Commonwealth of Virginia.