

# Goochland County Public Schools-HB2278 Accessibility Report

## Executive Summary

In accordance with Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Goochland County Public Schools (GCPS) completed a comprehensive review of the physical accessibility of all school buildings and grounds for individuals with disabilities. This review addresses: (i) physical accessibility challenges in school buildings and grounds and, (ii) the plan to eliminate barriers.

The review affirms that:

1. GCPS facilities were constructed in compliance with the building codes in effect at the time of their original construction.
2. All subsequent new construction, 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. GCPS has annual processes that support our commitment to ongoing review and improvement.

## Methodology of Review

GCPS conducted a comprehensive review of all schools. 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.

In addition to this review, GCPS focused on annual internal safety walkthroughs and partnered with school administration, the facilities department and members of the Exceptional Education department to ensure compliance with:

1. Current Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), including 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 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 our review, GCPS confirms that our facilities meet the building codes that applied at the time of their original construction. In addition, all later renovations have been completed in accordance with the Virginia USBC and ADA standards in place at the time of the 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 in place at the time of their original construction, and that future improvements have aimed to satisfy applicable code and ADA provisions. This planning assessment also identifies opportunities to strengthen accessibility for students, staff, families and visitors.

### **Proactive Accessibility Action Plan**

The school division integrates ongoing accessibility improvements into its annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process. 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: School-based requests often are the most timely and reflective of the current needs
- Facilities Department Assessments: Building conditions and barrier identification
- Capital Needs: Lifecycle planning, project bundling, and cost analysis

### **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

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

### **Conclusion**

Goochland County Public Schools remains committed to fostering safe, inclusive, and accessible learning environments for all students. This report confirms our adherence to all relevant codes and presents a plan for ongoing improvements. To fulfill the objectives of HB2278 and guarantee access for all, GCPS 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.

GCPS will implement accessibility improvements into its annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process. This process will assess facilities with a focus on removing barriers that limit participation in school programs and activities for individuals with disabilities.

Goochland County Public Schools is dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive and accessible learning environment for all students. This report confirms our adherence to relevant codes and presents a plan for ongoing improvements. To fulfill the objectives of HB2278, GCPS respectfully seeks support from the Virginia General Assembly. Sustainable advancement and mandates rely on receiving the resources needed to meet them.