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Superintendent ~
Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

October 24, 2025

The Honorable Ghazala Hashmi, Chair
Senate Education and Health Committee
201 North 9th Street
Virginia General Assembly Building
Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Sam Rasoul, Chair
House Education Committee
201 North 9th Street
Virginia General Assembly Building
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senator Hashmi and Delegate Rasoul,

Alexandria City Public Schools respectfully submits its Report on
Accessibility Findings and Recommendations as required by HB 2278.

The Division Contact for this report is:
Amanda Ou, Executive Director of Facilities
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Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt
Superintendent

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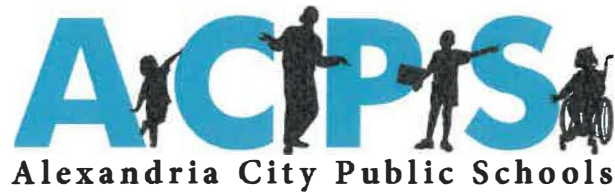
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Alexandria City Public Schools-HB2278 Accessibility Report

Executive Summary

In accordance with Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) completed a comprehensive review of the physical accessibility of all school buildings, school sites and school 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 supports; (iii) the plan to eliminate barriers; and (iv) how state agencies can assist.

This documented report affirms that:

1. ACPS facilities were constructed in compliance with the building codes in effect at the time of their original construction;
2. all subsequent 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. ACPS has regularly scheduled processes that support our commitment to ongoing review and improvement.

Methodology of Review

ACPS 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 consulted and received feedback from key personnel, including our Special Education Department, design professionals, facilities and operations staff, and stakeholders to ensure a thorough assessment and to determine compliance with two key sets of regulations:

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.

Summary of ACPS Findings

Based on our detailed review process, ACPS affirms that our facilities comply with the relevant building codes based on their respective built construction dates. Furthermore, all subsequent alterations or additions have been completed in adherence to the Virginia USBC and ADA standards in effect at the time of the work.

Consistent with HB2278's purpose to look beyond historical compliance and consider current conditions, our facilities were constructed according to the standards in effect at the time, and subsequent alterations are intended to comply with applicable code and ADA requirements. This planning review documents potential opportunities to enhance further accessibility for students, staff, families, and visitors.

Proactive Action Plan

Ongoing and continued efforts to improve accessibility are a key consideration in existing processes for annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) development. Each year, the CIP process evaluates facilities, including consideration of accessibility challenges and barriers affecting individuals with disabilities' ability to participate in school activities and programs fully. This process informs CIP planning and prioritizes projects for funding recommendations.

The Capital Improvement Plan lays out a 10-year commitment to maintaining and renovating schools, including ADA improvements that are informed by:

- Administrator requests (program access concerns and site-level observations)
- Facilities Department evaluations (facility condition and barrier observations) – Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) Process
- Capital needs (lifecycle, scope bundling, FCAs, facilities walkthroughs, and cost considerations)
- Security and safety reviews/checks and evaluations (circulation, egress, and operational constraints)

Screening and Prioritization of work

- Consider safety, accessibility, student/staff impact, feasibility, and funding alignment.
- Develop planning-level scopes of work and order-of-magnitude costs for CIP consideration and planning

ACPS reviews and updates this planning framework annually within the CIP cycle to reflect current conditions, stakeholder input, and available resources.

Our maintenance team also ensures we have working elevators and chair lifts to provide accessibility to students, staff, and visitors.

Conclusion

Alexandria City Public Schools prioritizes the development of welcoming, safe, and universally accessible educational spaces for every student, staff and visitor. This document validates our adherence to relevant regulatory standards while presenting a forward-looking roadmap for ongoing enhancements. To fulfill the objectives established by HB2278 and guarantee equitable access throughout our district, ACPS seeks dedicated appropriations from the Virginia General Assembly. Meaningful and lasting advancement necessitates adequate fiscal support aligned with legislative requirements, preventing the burden of unfunded mandates. We are eager to collaborate with state-level partners in promoting comprehensive accessibility initiatives across Virginia's public education system.