

October 30, 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,

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

The Division Contact for this report is:
Melinda Snead-Johnson, Assistant Superintendent
Alleghany Highlands Public Schools
P O Drawer 140
100 Central Circle
Low Moor, VA 24457

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Halterman
Superintendent

Alleghany Highlands Public Schools-HB2278 Accessibility Report

Executive Summary

In accordance with Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025) Alleghany Highlands Public Schools (AHPS) 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; (ii) challenges in access to programming and supports; (iii) the plan to eliminate barriers; and (iv) how state agencies can assist.

This report affirms that:

1. AHPS 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. AHPS has annual processes that support our commitment to ongoing review and improvement.

Methodology of Review

AHPS conducted a thorough facility-by-facility review of all schools, including grounds and athletic facilities. The 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 for Better Information to Improve Physical Accessibility of School Facilities, as recommended by the legislation. We have consulted with many stakeholders, all building administrators, local Building Inspectors, our special education staff and leadership, special education department, facilities staff, and parent groups, and advisory boards to ensure a thorough assessment for our division. Each building administrator and Director of Maintenance were supplied with copies of the 2020 GAO report, the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, checklists for monitoring ADA compliance, and a 2021 Facilities Assessment document completed by RRMM architectural firm prior to consolidation which outlines ADA compliance needs in each school building. AHPS staff used all noted above 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.**

All facilities were assessed 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:**
Our assessment 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

AHPS affirms that our facilities comply with the relevant building codes from their respective construction dates. Subsequent alterations or additions to our facilities have been completed in adherence to the Virginia USBC and ADA standards in effect at the time of work.

This planning review documents potential opportunities to enhance further accessibility for students, staff, families, and visitors in our buildings.

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 recommendation.

Annual Capital Improvement Plan Inputs with Screening and Prioritization

- Administrator requests submitted annually
- Facilities Department on going evaluations
- Capital needs prioritization by division processes
- Safety and Security ongoing evaluations
- Consider safety, accessibility, student/staff impact, feasibility for funding purposes
- Develop planning-level options for the CIP
- Approval by AHPS School Board

AHPS reviews and updates this planning framework annually within the CIP cycle to reflect current needs utilizing stakeholder input, and accessing available resources.

Conclusion

AHPS is deeply committed to creating safe, inclusive, and accessible learning environments. This report confirms our compliance with applicable codes and outlines a strategic plan for continued improvement. To achieve the goals of HB2278 and ensure for all, AHPS respectfully requests targeted funding from the Virginia General Assembly. Sustainable progress requires resources to accompany new mandates and avoid the creation of unfunded obligations. We look forward to partnering with state agencies to advance accessibility across all public schools.