



Office of the Superintendent
401 McIntire Road
Charlottesville, VA 22902-4596
Phone: (434) 296-5820
www.k12albemarle.org

October 31, 2025

The Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi
Chair, Senate Committee on Education and Health
P.O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Sam Rasoul
Chair, House Committee on Education
P.O. Box 13842
Roanoke, VA 24037

Dear Senator Hashmi and Delegate Rasoul,

As required by House Bill 2278, this letter and enclosure serve as the Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) report of findings from its comprehensive school division review of accessibility challenges.

ACPS has 26 schools (Note: One school is a specialized center that serves all ACPS high school students), two service facilities, and a separate facility for specialized educational needs. In addition to the school building, many school sites have additional facilities to support and enhance the learning community (such as athletic facilities, recreation equipment, and field space). In total, these facilities comprise over 2.4 million square feet of buildings on over 600 acres of land.

Due to the age and topography of many of our properties, a number of ACPS facilities present particular challenges to accessibility. Although ACPS maintains its legal requirements to provide reasonable accommodations as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the International Building Code, we share your commitment to removing all accessibility barriers or limitations to our student body, faculty, staff, and visitors.

In accordance with HB 2278, and consistent with our continued efforts to address accessibility and infrastructure improvements, our staff recently performed an assessment of all school facilities that service K-12 students to assess any accessibility challenges and barriers for individuals with disabilities that extend beyond those requirements outlined in the ADA.

In completing its survey, ACPS staff identified 300 total challenges and barriers across all its facilities. Our team broke these into three categories:

- **Barriers** (defined as “a fixed obstacle that prevents accessibility” such as a stage only accessible by stairs)
- **Major Challenges** (defined as “a challenge requiring significant work, professional services, funding, or construction time to resolve” such as playground walkways and equipment for wheelchair access and utilization)
- **Minor Challenges** (defined as “a challenge requiring minimal effort or funds to resolve” such as appropriate parking and signage)

A summary of these challenges and barriers by school can be found in the enclosure labeled “ACPS - HB 2279 General Findings.”

ACPS applauds the Virginia Board of Education for recently voting to approve changes to the guidelines for the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP). However, with more than half of all school buildings in Virginia being more than 50 years old (per the June 2021 report on the [*Needs and Conditions of Virginia School Buildings*](#)), additional funding sources will be required to fully address the growing capital needs for school construction and renovation projects.

More than 60% (16 of 26) of ACPS facilities are greater than 50 years old. The Albemarle County School Board recently received an internal report from its Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee (LRPAC) that recommends a \$666.4 million need-based Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which includes both capacity and renovation projects. However, in its most recent capital budget, less than half (48%) of the funding for these needs has been identified over the next five years. Much of this available funding must go toward basic capital maintenance needs and projects to increase capacity. This leaves little to no funding for major renovation projects necessary to address many of the larger barriers identified in the accessibility survey.

That said, some of the projects included in the most recent LRPAC report include project recommendations that would address some of these identified physical challenges and barriers for individuals with disabilities. A good example of this is an accessibility project at Albemarle High School, which would add another elevator to the building and provide more equitable access to the fine arts wing of the facility. However, there were some identified barriers in this most recent study that would not be resolved through currently identified projects.

There are several ways that the Virginia General Assembly and state agencies could assist ACPS and other school divisions in more aggressively tackling these identified challenges and barriers. Passage of a bill that would allow localities to consider levying a 1% sales tax for school construction via a referendum is just one example.

Additionally, continuing to expand access and providing additional funding to SCAP and other school construction programs would increase opportunities for ACPS and other school divisions to resolve many of the barriers that exist.

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide you with this information. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Haas', with a stylized, cursive script.

Matthew S. Haas, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Albemarle County Public Schools

Enclosure

Cc: Albemarle County School Board
Emily A. Gullickson, J.D., Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dr. Chandra Hayes, ACPS Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Rosalyn Schmitt, ACPS Chief Operating Officer

ACPS - HB 2278 General Findings October 31, 2025

Elementary Schools	Barriers	Itemized Occurrences	Major Challenges	Frequent Occurrence	Minor Challenges	Frequent Occurrence	Total by School
Agnor	2	HC Auto-entry, Playground access	6	Ramps, Sinks, Playgrounds	2	Furniture	10
Baker-Butler	1	HC Auto-entry	5	Ramps, Sinks, Playgrounds	5	Signage, Furniture	11
Broadus Wood	2	HC Auto-entry, Stage access	5	Curb cuts/parking, Ramps, Sinks, Playgrounds	2	Signage	9
Brownsville	1	HC Auto-entry	3	Ramps, Playgrounds	2	Signage, Paths	6
Crozet	2	HC Auto-entry, Stage access	6	Ramps, Curb cuts, Sinks, Restrooms	1	Signage	9
Greer	0	NA	4	Playgrounds, Sinks	3	Signage	7
Hollymead	3	HC Auto-entry, HC restrooms, Stage access	3	Playgrounds, Sinks, Restrooms	4	Signage, clutter, Hall WC's	10
Ivy	1	HC Auto-entry	8	Playgrounds, Sinks, Ramps	3	Signage, Sidewalks, Multi-level spaces	12
Mountain View	4	HC Auto-entry, Elevator	4	Playgrounds, Sinks, Restrooms	7	Signage, Furniture	15
Murray	3	HC Auto-entry, 1 ADA restroom, Stage access	11	Curb cuts/parking, Ramps, Sinks, Playgrounds	2	Signage	16
Red Hill	4	HC Auto-entry, Stage access, Field access, Serving line	6	Curb cuts/parking, Sinks, Playgrounds, Fields	2	Signage, Furniture	12
Scottsville	1	HC Auto-entry	2	Sinks, Playgrounds	2	Secondary doorways/exits	5
Stone-Robinson	4	HC Auto-entry, Cafeteria stage access, ADA Restrooms, Fields	7	Restrooms, Doorways, Sinks, Playgrounds, Fields	3	Signage, Paths	14
Stony Point	2	HC Auto-entry, Courtyard access	3	Playgrounds, Sinks, Restrooms	1	Multi-level spaces	6
Woodbrook	1	HC Auto-entry	6	Playgrounds, Sinks, Restrooms	3	Signage	10
Totals	31		79		42		152
Middle Schools	Barriers	Itemized Occurrences	Major Challenges	Frequent Occurrence	Minor Challenges	Frequent Occurrence	
Burley	5	HC Auto-entry, No access: 3rd fl. wkrm, Offices, Stage, Fields	16	Restrooms, Ramps, Exits, Sinks,	4	Signage, Badge Reader Location, Furniture	25
Henley	0		5	Restrooms, Sinks, Playgrounds, Paths, Curb cuts	5	Signage, Furniture	10
Journey	3	HC Auto-entry, Track/field access, Stage access	5	Restrooms, Sinks	4	Signage	12
Lakeside	2	HC Auto-entry, Locker room access	6	Curb cuts, Field access, Restrooms, Curb cuts	5	Signage, Furniture	13
Walton	3	HC Auto-entry, Track/field access, Stage access	11	Sinks, Ramps, Restrooms	2	Signage, Multi-level spaces	16
Totals	13		43		20		76
High Schools	Barriers	Itemized Occurrences	Major Challenges	Frequent Occurrence	Minor Challenges	Frequent Occurrence	
Albemarle	3	Basement restroom access, HC Auto-entry, Athletics RR access	11	Restrooms, Sinks, Sidewalks,	7	Multi-level spaces, Signage	21
Monticello	1	Lift	11	Concessions, Ramps	6	Signage	18
Western Albemarle	3	Athletics Restroom Access, HC Auto-entry, Office doorways	8	Sinks, Restroom, Concessions, Ramps, Stairs	4	Signage, Furniture	15
Totals	7		30		17		54
Other Schools	Barriers	Itemized Occurrences	Major Challenges	Frequent Occurrence	Minor Challenges	Frequent Occurrence	
ACE - Seminole Place Campus	0	NA	1	Sinks	1	Signage	2
Community Lab	2	HC Auto-entry, Field access	7	Railings, Ramps, Paths, Sinks	2	Parking, Signage	11
Trailhead Learning Community	1	HC Auto-entry	3	Playground, Curb cuts, Sinks	1	Furniture	5
Totals	3		11		4		18
Grand Totals	54		163		83		300

Term Guidelines:

Barrier: An accessibility barrier is a fixed obstacle or architectural feature that fully blocks access to a room or area. Resolution will take minor to major renovation and will most likely require capital funding.

Major Challenge: A major accessibility challenge is a task that requires difficult and/or time-consuming effort to overcome. It generally involves professional services, capital project funding, and building renovation to resolve.

Minor Challenge: A minor accessibility challenge is a task that can be fairly easy to correct or overcome. It can usually be resolved internally through signage modification, furniture adjustments, or maintenance funds.