



BRISTOL VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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31 October 2025

Dear Delegate Rasoul and Senator Hashmi,

In accordance with HB 2278, I am providing the following information as evidence of the review of accessibility undertaken by Bristol Virginia Public Schools (BVPS). In February 2025, BVPS commissioned the architecture firm Thompson and Litton to complete a comprehensive study of our school facilities for the purpose of providing a “strategic framework for addressing the physical needs” of our school facilities. Our facilities were evaluated from many perspectives—architectural, mechanic, electrical, plumbing, etc.—and due considerations was paid to “accessibility, sustainability, and alignment wit current codes and best practices.” The study was completed and returned in May 2025.

Bristol Virginia Public Schools operates and maintains six sites: four schools, a central office building, and a transit facility. Regarding ADA compliance issues and existing barriers to accessibility, our building interiors present very few items to resolve. We have two schools that are single-story buildings with full accessibility for visitors in wheelchairs, and two multilevel schools with functional elevators and interior wheelchair ramps to provide access to all levels and elevation changes in corridors. The central office building is multileveled with a handicap accessible elevator. The transit facility, other than the garage bays, is a single-story office with fully accessible entryways and corridors. All BVPS sites have appropriate curb and sidewalk features leading to the main entrances. As we have upgraded door locks throughout our schools, we have purposefully installed lever-handled doors for ADA compliance. When we complete repairs in bathrooms, we install hardware that is ADA compliant. While there are some faucet handles that are not ADA friendly, there are ADA compliant faucets in the same space.

The information reported below includes recommendations from the Thompson and Litton study.

During the construction phase of Virginia Intermediate School, which sits immediately adjacent to Virginia Primary School, we were able to improve accessibility to both elementary school buildings by repairing existing sidewalk ramps and installing new wheelchair accessible curbs and sidewalks throughout the combined campus. The Thompson and Litton report recommends the installation of high-visibility crosswalk striping and further repairs to portions of the sidewalk that are settling and deteriorating. These projects have been included in our capital improvement plan. Additionally, the comprehensive study recommends the paving of what are now gravel pathways from a secondary parking lot. We have the required number of handicapped parking spaces in the primary lots for both elementary schools.

The recommendations for Virginia Middle School, relevant to HB 2278, are the most challenging. This school building is more than 110 years old, and its original entrance, although picturesque, did not contemplate accessibility in ADA terms. In an effort to improve our internal safety and security measures and to make those improvements where handicapped visitors and students enter the building, we recently designated a different entrance as our main entrance. While this entrance is ADA compliant and fully accessible to the public, it lacks the prominence of the original main entrance. A long-term plan for addressing the new entrance would include widening the ramped sidewalk that leads to the main entrance, installing new handicap accessible doors, and installing an overhang or awning that is in keeping with the historical appearance of the building. While I understand compliance does not require aesthetics, the bareness of the new entrance confirms that accessibility was not an architectural consideration a century ago.

The remaining recommendations for Virginia Middle School also apply to Virginia High School and the central office building. These recommendations specifically address sidewalk repairs and handrails at various places throughout the three sites. The Thompson and Litton study estimates over \$200,000 worth of sidewalk, curb, and parking lot repairs over the next seven years.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey the needs of our school building to you and your committee members. If you have any questions, I am happy to discuss these items with you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Scott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David D. Scott, Ed.D.
Superintendent