

CHAPTER 566

An Act to require each school board or division superintendent to review accessibility challenges in the local school division; report.

[H 2278]

Approved March 24, 2025

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. *Each school board or division superintendent, in consultation with such other stakeholders as it deems appropriate, shall review the extent to which (i) public elementary and secondary school buildings and grounds in the local school division present accessibility challenges and barriers for individuals with disabilities, including challenges and barriers that may prevent such individuals from fully participating in school activities; (ii) challenges in access to programming and supports exist for individuals with disabilities at public elementary and secondary schools in the local school division; (iii) such schools have begun or plan to address and eliminate all such challenges and barriers; and (iv) state agencies can assist such schools to address and eliminate all such challenges and barriers and fully comply with all applicable state and federal laws. Each school board or division superintendent shall report the findings of such review and any associated recommendations to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than November 1, 2025.*

2. **That, in conducting the review required pursuant to the first enactment of this act, each school board or division superintendent shall consult and may utilize the methodology of the U.S. Government Accountability Office as set forth in its June 2020 report GAO20-448, K-12 Education: School Districts Need Better Information to Help Improve Access for People with Disabilities.**

SCOTT COUNTY VIRGINIA SCHOOLS

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Patricia Edwards
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DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

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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,

Scott County Public Schools respectfully submits this Report on Accessibility Findings and Recommendations as required by HB2278.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John I. Ferguson".

John I. Ferguson
Superintendent
Scott County Public Schools

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Scott County Public Schools – HB2278 Accessibility Report

Executive Summary

In accordance with the requirements of Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Scott County Public Schools conducted a comprehensive review of the physical accessibility of its school buildings and grounds. This review, as required, will address: (i) physical accessibility challenges in school buildings and associated school grounds; (ii) challenges in access to programming and supports; (iii) the plan to eliminate barriers; and (iv) how state agencies can provide assistance and support to school divisions to continue with accessibility improvements.

This report affirms that:

1. SCPS facilities were constructed in compliance with the building codes in effect at the time of their original construction;
2. Any and all subsequent additions and renovations were completed in accordance with the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code and the ADA Standards for Accessible Design applicable at their time of construction;
3. SCPS continues to work to improving accessibility for all students and staff members.

Methodology of Review

Scott County Public Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of school buildings and athletic facilities following the methodology outlined in 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.

The evaluation includes information from the 2007 Voluntary Compliance Plan from the Onsite Review Findings from Office of Civil Rights Review as well as input from our Special Education Department and various division staff.

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Summary of Findings

Based on the comprehensive review, all findings in the 2007 OCR Review have been addressed and completed. SCPS affirms our division’s facilities are in compliance with the relevant building code and ADA Standards in effect at the time of construction.

Proactive Action Plan

With Scott County Public Schools ongoing efforts and commitment to eliminate accessibility challenges as much as possible, SCPS will be conducting a complete facilities study evaluation on all of our school buildings and grounds in early 2026. Along with various ADA accommodations already completed, SCPS are currently in the process of complete playground upgrades with all new inclusive equipment to be installed at three of our elementary schools within this school year.

Screening & Prioritization

Throughout the budget year, our Capital Improvement Plan process includes evaluation of facility conditions, security assessments, as well as accessibility challenges and barriers affecting individuals with disabilities ability to fully participate in school activities and programs. Through the CIP process, projects are continuously assessed and are prioritized based on need, student impact, feasibility and available funding options.

Conclusion

Scott County Public Schools remain committed to creating a safe and accessible inclusive learning environment for all students. This report confirms our ongoing commitment plan for continued improvement and compliance with the applicable codes. To ensure access for all students and staff and the complete achievement of the goals of HB2278, SCPS respectfully requests funding from the Virginia General Assembly with the help from other State Agencies to assist with the ongoing Capital Improvement needs requiring resources to accompany new mandates with avoiding the creation of unfunded obligations. Scott County Public Schools look forward to partnering with state agencies for the advancement of accessibility across all public schools.