



Russell County Public Schools

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School Board Members

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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:

Russell County Public Schools hereby submits this accessibility assessment report in accordance with Virginia House Bill 2278 enacted during the 2025 legislative session. Our school division has completed the required evaluation of physical accessibility throughout our facilities and has developed strategies to enhance access for individuals with disabilities.

For questions or additional information regarding this submission, please contact:

Tim Lovelace
Director of Maintenance
Russell County Public Schools
84 Dr. Lorraine C. Turner Dr.
Lebanon, VA 24266

Respectfully,


Kimberly M. Hooker, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent

Russell County Public Schools

School Facility Accessibility Assessment

House Bill 2278 Compliance Report

In accordance with the requirements of Virginia House Bill 2278, Russell County Public Schools (RCPS) conducted a comprehensive review of the physical accessibility of all school facilities, including buildings and associated grounds. This review addresses the following mandated areas:

1. Physical accessibility challenges present in school buildings and grounds that may prevent full participation in educational activities
2. Barriers to programming and support services for individuals with disabilities
3. Current and planned measures to address and remove identified barriers
4. Opportunities for state agency assistance in eliminating accessibility barriers and achieving full compliance with applicable laws

Russell County Public Schools conducted a systematic evaluation of all educational facilities in the Summer/Fall of 2025. Our assessment team included:

- Director of Special Education
- Director of Maintenance
- Facilities management personnel
- Building principals and administrative staff

As recommended in the legislation, our methodology incorporated principles from the U.S. Government Accountability Office report GAO-20-448 (*K-12 Education: School Districts Need Better Information to Help Improve Access for People with Disabilities*, June 2020). This framework helped ensure our evaluation was comprehensive and aligned with federal best practices.

Summary of Findings

Russell County Public Schools can verify that our facilities meet applicable building code requirements from their respective construction periods. All major renovations and additions undertaken in recent years have been designed and constructed to comply with current accessibility standards and ADA requirements.

While our buildings comply with historical codes, we recognize that House Bill 2278 asks divisions to look beyond mere code compliance and consider how current facilities can better serve all members of our community. As we look at our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), we annually evaluate and consider any accessibility challenges and barriers. If there are any challenges or barriers, we will prioritize within funding recommendations and infrastructure goals.

Projects identified through the CIP process are prioritized based on safety, accessibility, student and staff impact, project feasibility, and alignment with available funding. Preliminary cost estimates are developed to inform decision-making and support transparent budget planning.

We strive to create welcoming, fully accessible educational environments where every individual can participate meaningfully in school activities and programs.

Continuous Review and Improvement

RCPS uses its CIP planning framework annually to reflect current conditions of facilities, stakeholder feedback, and resource availability. This ongoing process ensures that accessibility remains an integral focus within the division's capital and operational planning.

Conclusion

Russell County Public Schools shares the General Assembly's commitment to ensuring that all Virginia students have access to safe, inclusive educational facilities. This assessment demonstrates our division's existing compliance with applicable building codes while identifying opportunities for continued improvement.

To fully realize the objectives of House Bill 2278 and ensure equitable access for all individuals, RCPS requests consideration of targeted funding from the Virginia General Assembly. Sustainable and measurable progress toward enhanced accessibility requires that new mandates be accompanied by dedicated financial resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this report and welcome continued partnership with state agencies. We look forward to partnering with you to advance accessibility across all Virginia public schools.