



Dr. Eric Irizarry, Superintendent
Stephanie Haskins, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Nate Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Staunton City Schools - HB2278 Accessibility Report

October 31, 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,

In accordance with the reporting requirements established under House Bill 2278 (2025), Staunton City Schools submits this Report on Accessibility Findings and Recommendations to the Virginia General Assembly. This report reflects the division's comprehensive review of the physical accessibility of facilities and outlines steps to promote equitable access across all schools and programs.

The Division Contact for this report is:

Earl McCray
Director of Operations
Staunton City Schools
116 W. Beverley St.
Staunton, VA 24401

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Dr. Eric Irizarry, consisting of a stylized, cursive "E" followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Dr. Eric Irizarry
Superintendent

In accordance with the requirements of Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Staunton City Schools 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. identification of physical accessibility challenges within school facilities and grounds; 2. barriers to access for educational programming and student support; 3. the division's plan to eliminate identified barriers; and 4. ways in which state agencies may provide assistance to school divisions in advancing accessibility improvements.

This report affirms the following:

1. Code Compliance: All SCS facilities were originally constructed in compliance with the building codes and regulations in effect at the time of construction.
2. Accessibility Standards: All subsequent renovations, additions, and facility modifications have been completed in accordance with the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design applicable at the time of each project.
3. Ongoing Review and Improvement: SCS maintains established annual review processes to monitor facility conditions and ensure continuous progress toward full accessibility and equitable access for all students, staff, families, and community members.

Methodology of Review

Staunton City Schools conducted a comprehensive evaluation of all school buildings, including associated grounds and athletic facilities. This review followed the methodology outlined in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's June 2020 report, K-12 Education: School Districts Need Better Information to Improve Physical Accessibility of School Facilities (GAO-20-448), as recommended by the legislation. In conducting this analysis, CCPS engaged key stakeholders—including representatives from the Special Education Department, facilities and maintenance staff, and school administrators—to ensure a thorough and informed assessment of facility compliance. The review focused on two primary areas of regulatory standards:

1. Current Accessibility Codes and Standards: SCS evaluated all facilities in relation to the current Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), including the Virginia Construction Code (VCC), Virginia Existing Building Code (VEBC), and referenced ICC A117.1 accessibility provisions, as well as the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Our assessment examined compliance for all alterations and new construction undertaken since each facility's original construction date.
2. Original Construction Codes and Ongoing Maintenance Requirements: The division verified that each school building and its original structural components were constructed in accordance with the Virginia USBC and other applicable state and federal codes in effect at the time of construction. In addition, compliance with the Virginia Maintenance Code (VMC) was reviewed to ensure continued safety, accessibility, and functionality of existing facilities.

Summary of Findings

After careful review, Staunton City Schools confirms that our facilities meet the building codes that applied at the time of original construction, or as required during renovations. Additionally, any subsequent construction, updates, or additions were carried out in accordance with the Virginia USBC and ADA standards in effect at the time that the work was completed.

Consistent with HB2278's purpose to go above and beyond historical compliance and evaluate current conditions, or facilities were constructed according to the standards in effect at the time and all subsequent alterations are intended to comply with the applicable code and ADA requirements. This planning review identifies potential opportunities to improve our facilities accessibility for all students, staff, and families.

Proactive Accessibility Action Plan

Staunton City Schools recognizes the importance of constant evaluation of all buildings and facilities for accessibility. Each year, the CIP process allows the opportunity to evaluate facilities and consider accessibility challenges and potential solutions that allow all individuals to participate in school activities and programs fully.

Annual Capital Improvement Plan Inputs:

- Administrator Requests: program access concerns and site specific observations
- Facilities Department Assessments: Building conditions and barrier identification
- Capital Needs: Lifecycle planning, cost analysis
- Security Considerations: egress, ingress, operational constraints

Screening and Prioritization

- Consider safety, accessibility, potential impact on students and staff, feasibility, and funding availability and constraints.
- Develop preliminary project scopes and magnitude costs for CIP consideration.

Staunton City Schools reviews and updates this planning framework as needed, but at minimum annually, within the CIP cycle to reflect current conditions, stakeholder input, and available resources.



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Conclusion

Staunton City Schools believes it is our responsibility to ensure all buildings and facilities are safe, inclusive, and accessible for all students, staff, and families. We are dedicated to providing an environment that fosters learning for all within the SCS community. This report confirms our compliance to all relevant codes and presents a plan for ongoing review and improvement. To fulfill the objectives of HB2278 and guarantee access for all, SCS respectfully

seeks funding from the Virginia General Assembly. Continued advancement depends on pairing new requirements with the resources necessary to meet them, while avoiding funding mandates. We welcome the opportunity to partner with state agencies to enhance accessibility across every public school.