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October 30, 2025

The Honorable Ghazala Hashmi, Chair  
Senate Education and Health Committee  
201 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Virginia General Assembly Building  
Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Sam Rasoul, Chair  
House Education Committee  
201 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Virginia General Assembly Building  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senator Hashmi and Delegate Rasoul,

Waynesboro City Public Schools respectfully submits this Report on Accessibility Findings and Recommendations as required by HB 2278.

The division contact for this report is:

DeWayne Moore  
Executive Director of Operations  
301 Pine Ave.  
Waynesboro, VA 22980

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Cassell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Waynesboro City Public Schools

# Waynesboro City Public Schools

## HB 2278 Accessibility Report

### Executive Summary

Pursuant to Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Waynesboro City Public Schools (WCPS) conducts an ongoing evaluation of physical accessibility across all school campuses and surrounding areas for persons with disabilities. The assessment covers: (i) barriers within buildings and on grounds; (ii) obstacles to program participation and support services; (iii) a strategy for removing identified impediments; and (iv) ways state entities can provide support.

Key affirmations from this review include:

1. All WCPS buildings were originally built in accordance with the construction codes applicable at the time of construction.
2. Renovations and additions completed after original construction have adhered to the prevailing Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
3. WCPS maintains annual processes to sustain ongoing evaluation and enhancement of accessibility.

### Review Methodology

WCPS performs regular inspections of every school site, including athletic fields, playgrounds, and other outdoor spaces. WCPS consults the framework outlined in the U.S. Government Accountability Office report (GAO-20-448), “K-12 Education: School Districts Need Better Information to Improve Physical Accessibility of School Facilities,” as recommended by the legislation. We also engage relevant parties, including the student services team, design professionals, and facilities personnel, to ensure a thorough assessment and to determine compliance with the following standards:

1. **Current Regulations:** WCPS referenced the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), Virginia Construction Code (VCC), Virginia Existing Building Code (VEBC), and ICC A117.1, along with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. WCPS assessed facilities referencing current accessibility requirements.
2. **Original Standards:** Each school and their original structural components met the Virginia USBC and other relevant state and federal codes in effect at the time of construction. In addition, compliance with the Virginia Maintenance Code (VMC) was reviewed.

### Summary of Findings

WCPS affirms that all school facilities were constructed in compliance with the building codes and standards in effect at the time of their original construction. All later renovations, modifications and additions have been designed and constructed in compliance with the USBC and ADA standards in effect at the time of each project.

Recognizing the intent of HB 2278 to evaluate facilities current functionality and not solely historical compliance, this review identifies opportunities for continued improvement in accessibility and functionality. WCPS remains committed to continued facility improvements that better serve students, employees, parents, and community members.

## **Action Plan**

WCPS utilizes the following processes to ensure continued improvements for accessibility:

- **Capital Improvement Planning (CIP):** The CIP is reviewed and updated annually. This process evaluates facility needs, including specific consideration of accessibility challenges and barriers that may limit full participation in educational and extracurricular activities. This process informs project prioritization and funding proposals.
- **Facility Evaluations:** WCPS has contracts with two architectural firms which provide professional evaluations and recommendations for our facilities as requested.

## **Annual Capital Improvement Plan**

The annual CIP review process consists of the following components:

- Building administrators site-level feedback on program access and observed barriers
- Facilities staff assessments of physical conditions and accessibility constraints
- Capital needs including replacement needs, project bundling, and cost estimates
- Security reviews addressing circulation, emergency egress, and operational flow

## **Project Prioritization**

Projects are evaluated and prioritized based on factors including safety, accessibility, student and staff impact, feasibility, and alignment with available funding. Preliminary scopes of work and cost estimates are developed to inform decisions and support budget planning.

WCPS revisits and refines this planning structure within each CIP cycle to incorporate updated conditions, stakeholder perspectives, and resource availability.

## **Conclusion**

Waynesboro City Public Schools is committed to providing a secure, welcoming, and fully accessible environment for all students, staff and community member. The submission of this report confirms our compliance with applicable codes and outlines a plan for continued progress.

To meet the objectives of HB 2278 and ensure equitable access, WCPS respectfully requests funding support from the Virginia General Assembly. Appropriations from the Virginia General Assembly will enable essential capital upgrades that enhance accessibility for all stakeholders.

Sustainable progress in achieving full accessibility standards throughout Virginia's public schools requires financial resources that match new statutory expectations and prevent unfunded mandates. We are excited to collaborate with state agencies to advance accessibility for all students, staff members, and community members.