

West Point Public Schools – Accessibility Compliance Report

Date: October 30, 2025

I. Overview

This report documents West Point Public Schools' comprehensive review of accessibility conditions across its educational facilities, programs, and activities. The assessment responds to state legislative requirements and references methodology 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").

This year's review focused on the athletic complex and associated shared-use community areas, as well as a division-wide check of policies, participation, and equitable access.

II. Facility Review Findings

1. General Accessibility

West Point's athletic complex demonstrates partial ADA compliance. Primary accessibility challenges relate to sidewalk continuity and connectivity among the football stadium, baseball and softball fields, and concession/restroom buildings. While some ramps are in place, not all connect to continuous accessible pathways.

2. Sidewalks and Pathways

Area	Issue	ADA Concern	Recommended Action
Football Stadium	No continuous accessible sidewalk from parking or main building to seating area	Limits mobility access	Install ADA-compliant sidewalk from entry gate to stadium seating and field access points

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Football Stadium	No continuous accessible sidewalk from parking or main building to seating area	Limits mobility access	Install ADA-compliant sidewalk from entry gate to stadium seating and field access points
Baseball Field	No defined accessible route from parking	Uneven grass surfaces; non-compliant	Construct a paved pathway linking parking, dugouts, and spectator areas
Softball Field	Inaccessible surface approach	Lack of paved route	Install an ADA-compliant walkway connecting field and seating
Concession/Restroom Building	Ramps present but no connecting sidewalk	Discontinuous accessible route	Extend paved walkway to meet existing ramp
Town Parking Lot to Youth Fields	No accessible route from community parking	Restricts access for community events	Coordinate with the Town to install connecting sidewalks linking public parking and fields

3. Parking and Community Access

The shared-use nature of these facilities requires partnership with the Town of West Point. The town's parking lot lacks ADA-compliant sidewalk access to the youth fields, forcing individuals with mobility challenges to cross unpaved or uneven terrain. A joint improvement project is recommended.

III. Summary of Accessibility Gaps

- **Pathway continuity:** Missing or incomplete paved routes limit full compliance.
- **Connectivity:** Gaps between school-owned and town-owned property require coordinated upgrades.

- **Maintenance:** Long-term maintenance plans are needed to prevent surface degradation or obstruction.
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IV. Recommendations and Next Steps

1. **Collaborative Planning:**
Engage the Town of West Point Public Works Department and community organizations to coordinate sidewalk and access-route installations that span shared-use areas.
 2. **Professional Consultation:**
Retain a qualified **civil engineer or ADA consultant** to prepare design drawings, cost estimates, and phased implementation options.
 3. **Funding Considerations:**
Evaluate available CIP, grant, or town partnership funds to support accessibility enhancements.
 4. **Maintenance Plan:**
Develop a proactive maintenance schedule to ensure surfaces remain smooth, compliant with slope requirements, and unobstructed by debris or seasonal wear.
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V. Policy Review and Compliance Framework

West Point Public Schools ensures compliance through established School Board Policies:

- **Policy AC: Nondiscrimination** (Rev. 10/15/2024) – prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and other protected classes.
- **Policy JB: Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination** (Rev. 8/16/2021) – ensures equal educational access for all students.
- **Policy JFHA: Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation** (Rev. 8/16/2021) – prohibits harassment or retaliation based on disability or protected group status.

These policies affirm the division's commitment to equal access and equitable treatment across all programs and services.

VI. Programmatic Access

A. Middle and High School Activities

All after-school clubs, activities, and field trips are fully accessible. Information is communicated via email, newsletters, and counseling offices. Transportation is provided for all resident students after the academic day. Financial assistance is available to ensure equitable participation.

B. Elementary School Activities

Similar guarantees exist at the elementary level. Afternoon Academy transportation ensures participation. Clubs and field trips are cost-free, and hardship assistance is offered through school funds.

C. Athletics (VHSL Guidance)

While the VHSL Handbook does not contain explicit ADA policy language, West Point follows VHSL best practices. Reasonable accommodations are provided when requested, following submission of professional documentation. Accommodations are intended to ensure equal—not advantageous—competition opportunities.

VII. Identified Barriers and Proposed Remedies

Barrier	Impact	Recommended Process
Teachers restricting field trip participation based on behavior linked to disability	Exclusion from enrichment opportunities	Develop a team-based review process; communicate annually with parents; ensure behaviors related to disability do not prevent participation
Requiring parent attendance for students with disabilities on field trips	Unintended exclusion due to parent unavailability	Establish in-school supports or additional supervision options to enable attendance

Barrier	Impact	Recommended Process
Inconsistent use of available financial supports for trip or activity costs	Equity gap	Implement a clear, confidential process for staff to request assistance funds

VIII. Conclusion

West Point Public Schools remains steadfast in ensuring all students, staff, and community members enjoy full access to facilities, programs, and services. While the division demonstrates strong compliance with ADA requirements, focused facility upgrades—particularly to sidewalk connectivity and accessible routes—are essential to achieving full compliance.

The division recommends completing design and cost planning by Spring 2026 with implementation beginning in FY 2027, pending coordination with municipal partners.

Certification

This report is submitted in compliance with the requirements of the Virginia Accessibility Review Act (2025) and reflects the commitment of West Point Public Schools to improve accessibility for students, staff, and community members.

Submitted by:



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