



# Wise County Public Schools

Dr. Mike Goforth, Superintendent

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October 31, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

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  
Senate Education and Health Committee  
201 North 9th Street  
Virginia General Assembly Building  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senator Hasmi and Delegate Rasoul,

Wise County County Public Schools respectfully submits its Report on Accessibility Findings and Recommendations as required by HB 2278.

The Division Contact for this report is:

Gary Lawson  
628 Lake Street College Street  
Wise, VA 24293

Sincerely,

Dr. Mike Goforth

## Wise County Public Schools - HB 2278 Accessibility Report

### **Executive Summary:**

In accordance with Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Wise County Public Schools (WCPS) has completed a comprehensive review of the physical accessibility of all school buildings and grounds for individuals with disabilities. As required, this review addresses: (i) physical accessibility challenges in school building and grounds; (ii) challenges in access to programming and support; (iii) the plan to eliminate barriers; and (iv) how state agencies can assist.

### **This report affirms that:**

- WCPS facilities were constructed in compliance with the building codes in effect at the time of their original construction
- All subsequent renovations and additions meet current accessibility standards, including the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the 201 O ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- Wise County Public Schools has annual processes that support our commitment to ongoing review and improvement.

### **Summary of Findings:**

Based on our review, Wise County Public Schools affirms that all facilities meet the building codes applicable at the time of their original construction. Additionally, any subsequent renovations or additions have been completed in accordance with the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards in effect at the time of the work.

In alignment with the intent of HB 2278—to move beyond historical compliance and evaluate current conditions—this planning review identifies opportunities to further enhance accessibility for students, staff, families, and visitors.

### **Proactive Action Plan:**

WCPS employs the following measures to ensure continued efforts to improve accessibility.

- The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process includes a comprehensive evaluation of all facilities, with specific attention to accessibility challenges and barriers that may affect individuals with disabilities and their full participation in school activities and programs. The findings from this evaluation guide CIP planning and help prioritize projects for funding recommendations.

### **Annual Capital Improvement Plan Inputs:**

- Administrator feedback: Program access needs and site-level observations
- Facilities Department review: Building condition assessments and identification of accessibility barriers

- Capital improvement considerations: Lifecycle planning, project bundling, and cost analysis
- Security assessments: Evaluation of circulation patterns, egress routes, and operational limitations

Screening and Prioritization:

- Consider safety, accessibility, student/ staff impact, feasibility, and funding alignment.
- Develop planning-level scopes and order of magnitude costs for CIP consideration.

WCPS reviews and updates this planning framework as needed within the CIP cycle to reflect current conditions, stakeholder input, and available resources.

Conclusion:

Wise County Public Schools remains dedicated to fostering a safe, inclusive, and accessible learning environment for all students and stakeholders. This report affirms our compliance with all applicable standards and highlights our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement.

To achieve the goals of HB 2278 and to ensure access for all, WCPS respectfully requests the following:

- Funding from the Virginia General Assembly: Funding from the Virginia General Assembly will assist with capital improvements, especially ones that will allow for greater access and improvements for all of our stakeholders as it relates to accessibility.

Sustainable progress depends on the allocation of adequate resources to support new mandates and prevent the creation of unfunded obligations. Wise County Public Schools looks forward to collaborating with state agencies to further enhance accessibility throughout all public schools.