



# **VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **CHARTING THE COURSE**

October 28, 2025

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

**RE: Virginia Beach City Public Schools – House Bill 2278 Accessibility Report**

Dear Senator Hashmi and Delegate Rasoul,

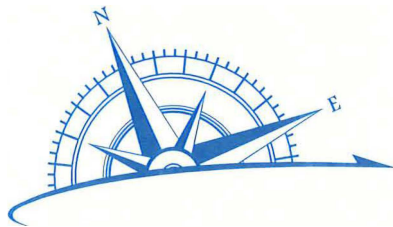
To comply with House Bill 2278 (2025) and the reporting requirements, Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) respectfully submits this report on accessibility findings and recommendations to the Virginia General Assembly. This report reflects VBCPS's comprehensive review of facility accessibility and outlines actionable steps to promote access to all schools and programs.

The school division contact for this report is:

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Sincerely,

Donald E. Robertson, Jr., Ph.D. Superintendent  
Virginia Beach City Public Schools



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### **Virginia Beach City Public Schools – House Bill 2278 Accessibility Report**

#### **Executive Summary**

In accordance with the requirements of Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) has established an ongoing process to review and assess the physical accessibility of all school facilities, including buildings and associated grounds. As required, this review addresses: (i) physical accessibility challenges in school buildings and grounds; (ii) challenges in access to programming and supports; (iii) the plan to eliminate barriers; and (iv) how state agencies can assist.

The following reflects the Division's ongoing assessment findings:

**1. Code Compliance:**

All VBCPS 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:**

VBCPS maintains established processes to ensure continuous progress toward accessibility for all students, staff, families, and community members.

#### **Methodology of Review**

Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) continuously evaluates all school buildings, associated grounds, and athletic facilities. In doing so, the school division has begun to utilize 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 House Bill 2278.

In conducting these evaluations, VBCPS has engaged key stakeholders including representatives from the Office of Facilities Services, the Department of Teaching and Learning, Office of Programs for Exceptional Children, school administration, and design professionals to ensure informed assessments. The methodology focused on two primary areas of regulatory standards:

**1. Current Accessibility Codes and Standards:**

VBCPS evaluates 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. Accessibility compliance is assessed continuously through each new construction and alteration project undertaken.

**2. Original Construction Codes and Ongoing Maintenance Requirements:**

The Division's ongoing evaluations consider each building's original construction year as it relates to applicable state and federal codes in effect at the time of construction. Associated reviews on current construction projects are permitted under the Virginia USBC to ensure continued safety, accessibility, and functionality.

## **Summary of Findings**

Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) established an ADA Transition Plan Committee in December 1993 with the mission of developing a comprehensive plan to ensure accessibility across all school division facilities. To implement this plan, VBCPS created a dedicated ADA School Modifications Capital Improvement Program (CIP) fund in FY 1994–95 to support the implementation of accessibility modifications. Once the primary objectives of the original ADA Transition Plan were achieved, the dedicated ADA CIP fund was phased out. Ongoing accessibility requests, which are continuously identified through school staff, inspections, or community input, are funded through the operating budget or the Capital Improvement Program, when necessary, CIP 601017 (Renovations and Replacements – Grounds III) and CIP 601020 (Renovations and Replacements – Various III).

Initial and ongoing ADA improvements include, but are not limited to:

- Upgrades to parking areas and accessible routes,
- Installation of sidewalk and building ramps,

- Replacement of entrance doors and hardware,
- Restroom accessibility enhancements, and
- Installation of hydraulic lifts for stages in auditoriums and cafetoriums.
- Playground accessibility improvements, accessible routes to outdoor athletic venues, and the addition of concrete pads for ADA-compliant portable restrooms have continued to be addressed.

Since 1995, VBCPS has replaced or completely modernized 39 buildings as part of the VBCPS Modernization / Replacement Program. These buildings were designed and built to be in full compliance with ADA standards at the time of their construction. Full compliance continues to be a goal for all future replacement and modernization projects.

In 2007, VBCPS engaged a nationally recognized consultant to develop a Long-Range Facility Master Plan, updated in 2017-18 and scheduled for another update within the next two years. This plan evaluates facility conditions, prioritizes modernization needs, and establishes a timeline for replacement or renovation to maintain compliance with accessibility requirements.

### **Proactive Action Plan**

Ongoing and continued efforts to improve accessibility are a key consideration in existing processes for maintenance and prioritizations for the annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) development process. This process informs CIP planning and prioritizes projects for funding recommendations.

### **Annual Maintenance and Capital Improvement Program Planning Inputs**

VBCPS annual facilities and maintenance planning processes integrate data and input from multiple sources to ensure a comprehensive and equitable evaluation of facility needs, including:

- **Administrator Input:** Site-level feedback identifying accessibility or program access concerns.
- **Facilities Department Evaluations:** Ongoing inspections to assess building conditions and identify physical barriers.

- **Capital Needs Assessment:** Consideration of facility lifecycle, project bundling, and cost considerations.
- **Safety and Security Reviews:** Evaluation of circulation, egress, and emergency accessibility.

## **Screening and Prioritization**

Projects identified through facilities maintenance and CIP planning processes are screened and prioritized based on safety, accessibility, student and staff impact, project feasibility, and available funding. Planning-level scopes and cost estimates are developed to guide decision-making and budget allocation.

## **Continuous Review and Improvement**

VBCPS updates its facilities planning strategies annually to reflect current facility conditions, stakeholder feedback, and fiscal priorities. This ongoing cycle of assessment ensures that accessibility remains an integral focus within the division's long-term infrastructure strategy.

## **Conclusion**

Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) is committed to providing safe, inclusive, and accessible learning environments for all students, staff, and community members. This correspondence confirms ongoing compliance with applicable state and federal accessibility standards and demonstrates the division's continued progress in advancing access across all facilities.

To fully realize the objectives of House Bill 2278 (2025) and ensure equitable access for all individuals, VBCPS recognizes that sustained progress requires both continued collaboration and adequate resources. The Division respectfully encourages consideration of targeted funding by the Virginia General Assembly to support implementation of accessibility improvements. VBCPS looks forward to working closely with the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Disability Commission, and other state partners to advance accessibility initiatives and maintain compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).