

November 1, 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 House Bill 2278 Report on Accessibility Findings and Recommendations, Fairfax County Public Schools respectfully submits its attached report as required.

Sincerely,



Michelle C. Reid, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent

MCR/ca
Attachment

cc: John Foster
Erik Gordon
Michael Molloy

Fairfax County Public Schools-HB2278 Accessibility Report

Executive Summary

In accordance with Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) completed a comprehensive review of the physical accessibility of all school buildings and grounds for individuals with disabilities.

In addition to this present-day review, FCPS consulted existing facility planning documents and condition assessments acknowledging the significant challenge of rehabilitating existing facilities across the division. As required, this review addresses: (i) physical accessibility challenges in school buildings 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:

1. FCPS facilities were constructed in compliance with the building codes in effect at the time of their original construction.
2. All subsequent new construction, renovations, and additions meet current accessibility standards, including the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
3. FCPS has annual processes that support our commitment to ongoing review and improvement.

Methodology of Review

FCPS has conducted and continues to conduct comprehensive, facility-by-facility review of all schools, including grounds and athletic facilities. Our reviews are guided by the ADA National Network “ADA Checklist” which is supported by the U.S. Access Board and the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division.

Findings

1. **Physical Accessibility Challenges and Barriers:** The review identified accessibility barriers primarily in older facilities constructed prior to modern accessibility codes. These challenges are being addressed in the FCPS Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
2. **Challenges in Access to Programming and Supports:** No systemic challenges in access to programming or supports were identified. FCPS provides all required special education and related services in accordance with federal and state law.

FCPS is committed to an inclusive environment. In particular, FCPS has strengthened its protocols and staff training for students with disabilities regarding behavioral interventions, including a ban on seclusion and restrictions on physical restraint, ensuring compliance with federal law and a commitment to providing communication supports and trauma-informed practices.

3. **Plan to Eliminate Challenges and Barriers:** FCPS has integrated the review findings into its CIP and long-range planning documents. The barrier elimination plan is a multi-year effort, prioritized by impact on student/staff access and safety. The plan focuses on high-priority projects such as: approach and entrance, access to programs, toilet rooms, accessible playground surfaces, and areas of sports activities.

CIP Planning and Prioritization

The Facilities Department uses an annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process to coordinate maintenance, construction, and compliance, including accessibility for students with disabilities. The findings guide CIP planning and help prioritize projects for funding recommendations.

Inputs to the Annual CIP

The annual CIP process collects and analyzes data from the following sources:

- **Administrator Feedback:** Program access concerns and site-specific observations
- **Facilities Department Assessments:** Building conditions and barrier identification
- **Capital Needs:** Lifecycle planning, project bundling, and cost analysis
- **Security Considerations:** Circulation, egress, and operational constraints

Screening & Prioritization

The school division evaluates and prioritizes findings as follows:

- Evaluate safety, accessibility, impact on students and staff, feasibility, and funding alignment
- Develop preliminary project scopes and order-of-magnitude cost estimates for CIP review

FCPS updates this planning framework annually as part of the CIP cycle to incorporate current conditions, stakeholder feedback, and available resources.

Conclusion

Fairfax County Public Schools remains dedicated to fostering safe, inclusive, and accessible learning environments for every student. This report verifies our adherence to all relevant codes and presents a clear plan for ongoing improvements. To fulfill the objectives of HB2278 and guarantee access for all, FCPS respectfully seeks targeted support from the Virginia General Assembly. Sustainable advancement depends on pairing new requirements with the resources needed to meet them, thereby avoiding unfunded mandates. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with state agencies to enhance accessibility throughout every public school in the Commonwealth of Virginia.