



**Office of the Superintendent • Dr. Michele Mitchell, Superintendent**

12465 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, VA 23606-3041 • phone: 757-591-4502 • fax: 757-591-4685

OCTOBER 29, 2025

**TO:** Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Senate Committee on Education and Health  
via email [senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:senatorhashmi@senate.virginia.gov)  
Delegate Sam Rasoul, House Committee on Education  
via email [DelSRasoul@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelSRasoul@house.virginia.gov)

**FROM:** Michele Mitchell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Newport News Public Schools

**SUBJECT:** HB 2278, School boards/division superintendent; review of accessibility challenges in local school division.

As required by HB 2278, below is a report of the current conditions of our elementary and secondary school buildings and grounds relating to accessibility for students with disabilities.

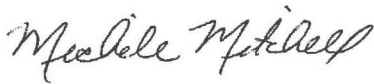
- Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) currently has 44 school sites that serve the general education population as well as students with disabilities.
- There are no schools within the division that were constructed prior to 1970 or 1992 that have not undergone an alteration or addition.
- NNPS conducts a facility condition assessment for every school on an annual basis. The facility condition assessment includes an assessment of physical accessibility. All school sites are ADA compliant and do not present accessibility issues for students with disabilities.
- Additionally, 25 of our school sites are utilized as polling locations by the City of Newport News. Each of these sites is certified to be ADA compliant as required by the Virginia Department of Elections.
- Facility condition assessments are conducted collaboratively with school based and central office staff, to ensure consistency and compliance with ADA standards and general maintenance expectations.
- NNPS employs a Supervisor of Environmental Health and Safety who is responsible for ensuring ADA compliance, facility accessibility, indoor air quality, and compliance with other environmental health and safety requirements.
- School-based staff report maintenance needs daily through our work order process.
- Work orders are prioritized and completed as quickly as possible based on existing funding.
- Work orders related to accessibility or ADA are typically given the highest priority.

- NNPS developed a Facilities Master Plan (FMP) in collaboration with a third-party vendor in 2022. The FMP contains a facilities condition index for each of our school sites.
- NNPS utilizes a blended funding model to support our facility needs. Funds include the annual operating budget, Capital Improvement Plan funding, and state and federal grant funds as available and appropriate.

It is recommended that NNPS continue the current facility condition review process to ensure compliance with ADA and accessibility for students with disabilities at each of our school buildings and grounds. This includes current staffing levels and assignments and the ongoing funding that is necessary to support our efforts to remain compliant and ensure that our students with disabilities have appropriate access to their educational environment.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Donald "Rusty" Fairheart, MBA, Chief of Operations, at [donald.fairheart@nn.k12.va.us](mailto:donald.fairheart@nn.k12.va.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michele Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michele Mitchell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Newport News Public Schools