

Appalachian Independence Center, Inc. conducted ADA accessibility walk-throughs on the two schools in the Bland County Public School System. AIC has conducted these assessments as courtesy to the Bland County Public Schools. Mr. B.K. Walker, Supervisor of Division Operations for Bland County Public School accompanied AIC staff on the walk-throughs.



Documents and Scoping

Survey Tool: *The Americans with Disabilities Act Checklist for Existing Facilities* produced by the Institute for Human Centered Design

<http://adachecklist.org/doc/fullchecklist/ada-checklist.pdf>

Survey Tool: *The Americans with Disabilities Act Checklist for Existing Facilities: Play Areas* produced by the Institute for Human Centered Design
The *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design* became effective on March 15, 2012 and will be referenced in any possible solutions for problem areas outlined in this report.

<https://adachecklist.org/doc/rec/play/play.pdf>

Department of Justice's *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design*

<https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADAStandards.pdf>

This assessment focused on the exterior and interior elements, parking, and the path of travel throughout the public areas and prioritized the most commonly found ADA accessibility issues in schools per the GAO-20-448 Report.

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-20-448.pdf>

Disclaimer: This report should not be considered a full ADA review. While there is currently no legal certification for accessibility review services under the ADA, our training and experience in providing interpretations of the ADA (and its implementing regulations) as well as our personal experiences with disability have left us in a uniquely qualified position to be of service to you. However, we are not lawyers, and this review and accessibility guidance should not be considered legal advice or binding on us as such or in any way; but rather as a resource for verifying access issues and planning features within current and future projects that will enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Bland County, VA Public Schools ADA Assessment

| <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Room Number/ Room Name</u> | <u>Issue</u> | <u>ADA Code</u> |
|-----------------|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Main parking lot | There was no accessible parking signage for the 5 provided accessible parking spaces. | 502.6 |
| 2 | B Building parking lot | There are 14 parking spaces and no accessible parking spaces. | 208.2 |
| 3 | Hallways | The drinking fountains are considered protruding objects and extend beyond 4 inches from the wall into the path of travel, and the bottom edge is greater than 27 from the floor. | 307.2 |
| 4 | Path of travel to "B Building" from high school | The ramp that leads to the entrance of the B building has a 1 3/4 inch change in level. | 303 |
| 5 | Gymnasium | There are no provided wheelchair accessible seating options in the bleachers. | 221.2.1 |

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| 6 | Men's Restroom & Women's Restroom AND B Building Men's & Women's Restrooms | Bottom edge of mirror above sink is higher than 40 inches. | 603.3 |
| 7 | Men's Restroom & Women's Restroom | Accessible stall is missing a rear wall grab bar. | 604.5.2 |
| 8 | Men's Restroom | Toilet paper dispenser is too far away from the toilet. | 604.7 |
| 9 | Women's Restroom & "B Building" Women's restroom | Inaccessible locking mechanism on accessible restroom stall door. | 404.2.7 |

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| 10 | Men's Restroom & Women's Restroom | There is no accessible restroom signage. | 703 |
| 11 | B Bulding Men's & Women's Restrooms | Exposed pipes under sinks. | 606.5 |
| 12 | B Building Men's & Women's Restrooms | Accessible restroom signage is placed on the door. | 703.4 |

| <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Room Number/ Room Name</u> | <u>Issue</u> | <u>ADA Code</u> |
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| 13 | Various locations | Permanent room signage is not compliant | 216.1, 703.1 |
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| <u>Possible Solution</u> | <u>Other Comments</u> | <u>Link to Specs</u> |
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| Provide accessible parking signage that includes the International Symbol of Accessibility. "Van accessible" parking space should include "van accessible" designation. Signage should be placed with the bottom edge of the sign measuring 60 inches to the ground. | Recommend parking space closest to the entrance should be the van accessible parking space, as it has the largest access aisle. | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch05/#a502 |
| Re-stripe parking lot to create one additional "van accessible" parking space. Ensure signage is provided. | Van accessible parking spaces should measure 11 ft. wide with a 5 ft. wide access aisle OR 8 ft. wide with an 8 ft. access aisle. | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch02/#208-parking-spaces |
| Due to nature of building, the most feasible solution could be to provide a cane detectible item (such as a stantion or trash can) on the sides of the drinking fountains to provide proper cane detection (27 inches or lower to the floor). | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch03/#a301 |
| Repair concrete on ramp to remove slight step up/change in level. | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch03/#a303 |
| Provide additional wheelchair spaces in gym seating as appropriate for the total number of seats. Refer to chart 221.2.1. | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch02/#221-assembly-areas |

| <u>Possible Solution</u> | <u>Other Comments</u> | <u>Link to Specs</u> |
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| Lower mirror so the bottom reflective edge is no higher than 40 inches. Alternatively, a mirror could be provided in a location that is not above sinks or countertops at a location of the bottom edge of the mirror no higher than 35 inches above the finished floor. A single full length mirror is also an option. | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch06/#a612 |
| Install rear wall grab bar. (Should measure 36 inches long & extend from the centerline of the toilet 12 inches minimum on one side and 24 inches minimum on the other side.) | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch06/#a604 |
| Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that it is 7 inches min. and 9 inches max. in front of the toilet measured to the centerline of the dispenser. The outlet of the dispenser should be located 15 inches min. and 48 inches max. above the finish floor. | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch06/#a612 |
| Replace so that locking hardware can be operated without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch04/#a404 |

| <u>Possible Solution</u> | <u>Other Comments</u> | <u>Link to Specs</u> |
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| Provide accessible restroom signage in accordance to 703 that features raised characters and braille. Tactile characters on signs should be located 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum above the finish floor or ground surface, measured from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60 inches maximum above the finished floor to the baseline of the highest tactile character. Signage should be located on the latch side of the wall. | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch07/#a703 |
| Provide pipe wrapping or covering on exposed pipes. | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch06/#a612 |
| Relocate signage to the wall on the latch side of the door. Tactile characters on signs should be located 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum above the finish floor or ground surface, measured from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60 inches maximum above the finished floor to the baseline of the highest tactile character. | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch07/#a703 |

| <u>Possible Solution</u> | <u>Other Comments</u> | <u>Link to Specs</u> |
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| Install permanent room signage in accordance to 703 that features raised characters and braille. Tactile characters on signs should be located 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum above the finish floor or ground surface, measured from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60 inches maximum above the finished floor to the baseline of the highest tactile character. | This applies only to permanent room signage: i.e. library, cafeteria, room numbers etc. Room occupant names (i.e. teacher names), directories, seat and row designations are not required to comply. | https://www.acces-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch07/#a703 |
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| <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Room Number/ Room Name</u> | <u>Issue</u> | <u>ADA Code</u> |
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| 1 | Main parking lot | There are not enough accessible parking spaces. There is no "van accessible" parking provided. | 208.2 |
| 2 | Main parking lot | The provided accessible parking spaces are on a slope. | 502 |
| 3 | Main parking lot | There is no accessible parking signage provided. | 502.6 |
| 4 | Hallways | The drinking fountains are considered protruding objects and extend beyond 4 inches from the wall into the path of travel, and the bottom edge is greater than 27 from the floor. | 307.2 |
| <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Room Number/ Room Name</u> | <u>Issue</u> | <u>ADA Code</u> |

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| 5 | Various locations | Permanent room signage is not compliant | 216.1, 703.1 |
| 6 | Main office | Reception counter is too high. | 904.4 |
| 6 | Auditorium/Gym | No accessible access to stage. | 402.2 |
| 7 | Cafeteria | There is not enough clear width for the path of travel along the wall in between the cafeteria tables. | 403.5.1 |

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| 8 | Cafeteria | There is not an appropriate number of accessible (wheelchair) seating options. | 221.2 |

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| 9 | Library | There is only a 26" clear width between the bookcases in the area behind the librarian desk. | 403.5.1 |
| 10 | Gymnasium | There are no provided wheelchair accessible seating options in the bleachers. | 221.2.1 |
| 11 | Main hall Men's & Women's Restrooms AND Men's 2 & Women's 2 Restrooms | No rear wall or side wall grab bars in accessible stalls. | 609 |
| 12 | Main hall Men's & Women's Restrooms AND Men's 2 & Women's 2 Restrooms | Exposed pipes under sinks. | 606.5 |

| <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Room Number/ Room Name</u> | <u>Issue</u> | <u>ADA Code</u> |
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| 13 | Main hall Men's & Women's Restrooms AND Men's 2 & Women's 2 Restrooms | Accessible restroom signage is in the wrong location (door). | 703.4 |

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| 14 | Pre-K Playground & Main Playground | Inaccessible ground surface (mulch). | 302 |
| 15 | Pre-K Playground & Main Playground | There is not the appropriate number of accessible ground-level play elements comparative to the number of elevated play components. | 240, 1008 |
| 16 | Main Playground | Inaccessible path of travel to the playground area. (very steep grade) | 206.2.2, 403, 405 |

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| <u>Possible Solution</u> | <u>Other Comments</u> | <u>Link to Specs</u> |
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| Refer to chart 208.2 to determine the appropriate number of needed accessible parking spaces. It is recommended that due to the design of the various parking areas around the school, and inaccessible entrances, the total number of parking spaces available should be considered when determining the number of accessible parking spaces. | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch02/#208-parking-spaces |
| Consider re-striping and re-distributing the accessible parking area to the area past the temporary road block. The ground is much more level, and there could still be a clear accessible path of travel to the main office entrance with the addition of a curb cut. | If this recommendation is pursued, ensure appropriate signage indicating location of the accessible entrance. Ensure parking space width for regular accessible parking, van accessible parking, and access aisles are compliant with 502 as well as accessible parking signage. | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch05/#a502 |
| Provide accessible parking signage that includes the International Symbol of Accessibility. "Van accessible" parking space should include "van accessible" designation. Signage should be placed with the bottom edge of the sign measuring 60 inches to the ground. | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch05/#a502 |
| Due to nature of building, the most feasible solution could be to provide a cane detectable item (such as a stantion or trash can) on the sides of the drinking fountains to provide proper cane detection (27 inches or lower to the floor). | | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch03/#a301 |
| <u>Possible Solution</u> | <u>Other Comments</u> | <u>Link to Specs</u> |

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| Install permanent room signage in accordance to 703 that features raised characters and braille. Tactile characters on signs should be located 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum above the finish floor or ground surface, measured from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60 inches maximum above the finished floor to the baseline of the highest tactile character. | This applies only to permanent room signage: i.e. library, cafeteria, room numbers etc. Room occupant names (i.e. teacher names), directories, seat and row designations are not required to comply. | https://www.acces-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch07/#a703 |
| For a parallel approach, provide counter access that measures 36 inches high above the finished floor and the counter surface extends for a width of at least 36 inches. | | https://www.acces-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch09/#904-check-out-aisles-and-sales-and-service-counters |
| Provide either a ramp or lift to allow accessible access to stage. | If a ramp or lift is not feasible, ensure provision of a programmatic alternative to provide access to all. | https://www.acces-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch04/#a402 |
| Reconfigure layout of cafeteria tables to provide a 36 inch clear width for path of travel. *can narrow to 32 inches for a length no greater than 24 inches. | | https://www.acces-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch04/#a403 |

| <u>Possible Solution</u> | <u>Other Comments</u> | <u>Link to Specs</u> |
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| Provide accessible dining table options. When considering the cafeteria as an "assembly area" refer to table 221.2.1.1 to provide the appropriate number of wheelchair spaces, as the dining surfaces are in the picnic table/bench style. | | https://www.acces-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch02/#221-assembly-areas |

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| Reconfigure layout to provide a 36 inch clear width for path of travel. *can narrow to 32 inches for a length no greater than 24 inches. | | https://www.acces-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch04/#a403 |
| Provide additional wheelchair spaces in gym seating as appropriate for the total number of seats. Refer to chart 221.2.1. | | https://www.acces-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch02/#221-assembly-areas |
| Provide rear wall and side wall grab bars in accordance to 609. | | https://www.acces-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch06/#a612 |
| Provide pipe wrapping or covering on exposed pipes. | | https://www.acces-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch06/#a612 |

| <u>Possible Solution</u> | <u>Other Comments</u> | <u>Link to Specs</u> |
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| Relocate signage to the wall on the latch side of the door. Tactile characters on signs should be located 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum above the finish floor or ground surface, measured from the baseline of the lowest tactile character and 60 inches maximum above the finished floor to the baseline of the highest tactile character. | | https://www.acces-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch07/#a703 |

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| Replace ground covering with an accessible material. | <u>Ground surface details:</u> https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch03/#a301 | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch10/#a1008 |
| Provide additional ground level/accessible play equipment. | See scoping in section 240 & additional guidance on accessible play areas in 1008. | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch02/#240-play-areas |
| Adjust grade; provide ramped access to play area. | <u>Ramp guidelines can be found here:</u> https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch04/#a405 | https://www.access-board.gov/ada/chapter/ch04/#a403 |