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 232219

Dear Senator Hasmi and Delegate Rasoul,

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

CCPS Division Contact for this report: C. Andre' Kidrick, Director of Operations 129 Ramsburg Lane Berryville, VA 22611

\_spectfullysubmitted,

Dr. Rick Bolling, CCPS Super tendent

## Clarke County Public Schools - HB 2278 ADA Report

# **Executive Report:**

In accordance with Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Clarke County Public School (CCPS) has completed a comprehensive review of the physical accessibility of all school buildings and grounds for individuals with disabilities. As required, this review addresses: (1) physical accessibility challenges in school buildings and grounds; (2) challenges in access to programming and support; (3) the plan to eliminate barriers; and (4) how state agencies can assist.

## This report affirms that:

- 1. CCPS facilities were constructed in compliance with 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 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
- CCPS has annual processes that support our commitment to ongoing review and improvement.

## Methodology of Review:

CCPS conducted a comprehensive review of schools, including grounds and athletic facilities in the Fall of 2025. Our review guided by the methodology of the U.S. Government Accountability Office's June 2020 report (GAO-20-448), K-12 Education: School Districts Need Better Information to Improve Physical Accessibility of School Facilities," as recommended by legislation. We also consulted with key stakeholders including our Special Education Department, design professionals, facilities staff to ensure a through assessment and to determine compliance with the following regulation:

- Current Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), including the Virginia
  Construction Code (VCC), the Virginia Existing Building Code (VEBC), and referenced
  ICC A 117.1. In addition the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design were consulted.
  CCPS assessed all facilities against current accessibility requirements for any alterations
  or new construction undertaken since their original design.
- 2. Original Construction Codes and the Virginia Maintenance Code (VMC), as applicable. We confirm that each school and its original components were constructed in compliance with the Virginia USBC and other applicable state and federal codes in effect at the time of construction.

## **Summary of Findings:**

Based on our review, CCPS affirms that our facilities comply with the relevant building codes from respective construction dates. Furthermore, all subsequent alterations or additions have been completed in adherence to the Virginia USBC and ADA standards in effect at their time of work.

Consistent with HB 2278's purpose to look beyond historical compliance and consider current conditions, our facilities were constructed according to the standards in effect at the time, and subsequent alterations are intended to comply with applicable code and ADA requirements. This planning review documents potential opportunities to enhance further accessibility for students, staff, families, and visitors.

#### **Proactive Action Plan:**

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

- Facility Assessment: CCPS has commissioned a facilities study to be conducted by a to be determined Engineering company. The facility assessment will be completed by March of 2026 in preparation for the 2026 ADA Report.
- CIP Process: The CIP process evaluates facilities, including consideration of
  accessibility challenges and barriers affecting individuals with disabilities ability to
  participate in school activities and programs fully. This process informs CIP planning and
  prioritizes projects for funding recommendations.

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

- 1. Administrator Request (program access concerns and site level observations)
- Facilities Department evaluations (facility condition and barrier observations
- 3. Capital needs (lifecycle, scope bundling, and cost considerations)
- 4. Security evaluations (circulation, egress, and operational constraints)

### Screening and Prioritization:

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

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

#### Conclusion:

Clarke County Public Schools is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and accessible learning environment for all of its students and stakeholders. This report confirms our compliance with applicable codes and outlines a plan for continued improvement.

To achieve the goals of HB 2278 and to ensure access for all, CCPS 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 requires resources to accompany new mandates and avoid the creation of unfunded obligations. We look forward to partnering with state agencies to advance accessibility across all public schools.