

Dickenson County Public Schools

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Haydee L. Robinson, Superintendent



October 31, 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
Senate Education and Health Committee
201 North 9th Street
Virginia General Assembly Building
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senator Hasmi and Delegate Rasoul,

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

The Division Contact for this report is:
Haydee L. Robinson
P.O. Box 1127
309 Volunteer Avenue
Clintwood, VA 2422

Respectfully submitted,

Haydee L. Robinson,
Division Superintendent

Dickenson County Public Schools

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Executive Summary

In accordance with the requirements of Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Dickenson County Public Schools (DCPS) conducted a comprehensive assessment of the physical accessibility of all school facilities, including buildings and their related grounds. This assessment covers the following mandated areas:

1. identification of physical accessibility challenges within school facilities and grounds;
2. barriers to access for educational programming and student supports;
3. the division's plan to eliminate identified barriers; and
4. ways in which state agencies may assist school divisions in advancing accessibility improvements.

This report affirms the following:

1. Code Compliance: All DCPS facilities were originally built following 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 are applicable at the time of each project.
3. Ongoing Review and Improvement: DCPS maintains established annual review processes to monitor facility conditions and ensure continuous progress toward full accessibility and equitable access for all students, staff, families, and community members.

Methodology of Review

Dickenson County Public Schools (DCPS) conducted a comprehensive evaluation of all school buildings, including associated grounds and athletic facilities. This review followed 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 the legislation.

In conducting this analysis, DCPS engaged key stakeholders—including representatives from the Special Education Department, facilities and maintenance staff, and school administrators—to ensure a thorough and informed assessment of facility compliance. The review focused on two primary areas of regulatory standards:

1. Current Accessibility Codes and Standards:

DCPS evaluated 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. This assessment examined compliance with all alterations and new developments. construction undertaken since the original construction date of each facility.

2. Original Construction Codes and Ongoing Maintenance Requirements:

The division verified that each school building and its original structural components were

constructed in accordance with the Virginia USBC and other applicable state and federal codes in effect at the time of construction. In addition, compliance with the Virginia Maintenance Code (VMC) was reviewed to ensure the continued safety, accessibility, and functionality of existing facilities.

Summary of Findings

Dickenson County Public Schools (DCPS) affirms that all division facilities were constructed in accordance with the building codes and standards in effect at the time of their original construction. All subsequent renovations, additions, and modifications have been designed and executed in compliance with the applicable editions of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design in effect at the time of each project.

Consistent with the intent of House Bill 2278 to evaluate facilities beyond historical compliance, this review examines current site and building conditions to identify opportunities for continued improvement in accessibility and inclusivity. DCPS remains committed to maintaining safe, compliant, and equitable learning environments that uphold both state regulatory standards and the values of the Dickenson County community.

Proactive Action Plan

Dickenson County Public Schools (DCPS) incorporates ongoing and proactive efforts to improve accessibility as part of its annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) development process. Each year, the CIP process includes a comprehensive evaluation of all facilities, with specific consideration of accessibility challenges and barriers that may limit individuals with disabilities from fully participating in school programs, services, and activities. This structured review informs CIP planning and ensures that accessibility improvements are prioritized within funding recommendations and long-term infrastructure goals.

Annual Capital Improvement Plan Inputs

The CIP development process integrates data and input from multiple sources to ensure a comprehensive and equitable evaluation of facility needs, including:

- Administrator Input: Site-level feedback and program access concerns identified by school and division administrators.
- Facilities Department Evaluations: Assessments of building conditions and identification of physical or operational barriers.
- Capital Needs: Consideration of facility lifecycle, project scope bundling, and cost efficiency to optimize available resources.
- Security and Safety Reviews: Evaluation of circulation patterns, egress routes, and operational constraints to align with safety and accessibility standards.

Screening and Prioritization

Projects identified through the CIP process are screened and prioritized based on factors including safety, accessibility, student and staff impact, project feasibility, and alignment with available funding. Planning-level scopes and preliminary cost estimates are developed to inform decision-making and support transparent budget planning.

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Continuous Review and Improvement

DCPS reviews and updates its CIP planning framework annually to reflect current facility conditions, stakeholder feedback, and resource availability. This ongoing cycle of assessment and improvement ensures that accessibility remains an integral and sustained focus within the division's long-term capital and operational planning.

Conclusion

Dickenson County Public Schools (DCPS) is committed to creating safe and accessible learning environments. This report confirms our compliance with applicable codes and outlines plans for continued improvement.

To fully realize the objectives of House Bill 2278 (2025) and ensure equitable access for all individuals, DCPS respectfully requests consideration of targeted funding from the Virginia General Assembly. Sustainable and measurable progress toward enhanced accessibility requires that new mandates be accompanied by dedicated financial resources to prevent the creation of unfunded obligations for local school divisions.

Dickenson County Public Schools looks forward to continued collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Disability Commission, and other state agencies to advance accessibility initiatives and ensure that all public-school facilities across the Commonwealth provide inclusive, compliant, and welcoming environments for every student, staff member, and community member.

Kind regards,



Haydee L. Robinson,
Division Superintendent