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J. DOUGLAS STRALEY II, Division Superintendent

Louisa County Public Schools

November 7, 2025

The Honorable Ghazala Hashmi, Chair Senate Education and Health Committee 20 I 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:

Louisa County Public Schools respectfully submits its Report on Accessibility Findings and Recommendations as required by House Bill 2278 (2025), Chapter 566, Enactment Clause 1. The attached report details our comprehensive review, which utilized the methodology of the U.S. Government Accountability Office's June 2020 report (GAO-20-448), as recommended by the legislation.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

J. Douglas Straley

Division Superintendent

Louisa County Public Schools

HB2278 Accessibility Report

Executive Summary

In compliance with Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Louisa County Public Schools (LCPS) has completed a comprehensive review of the physical accessibility of all district buildings and grounds for individuals with disabilities. As mandated, this review addresses: (i) physical accessibility challenges in buildings and grounds; (ii) barriers to program and support access; (iii) plans to eliminate barriers; and (iv) opportunities for assistance from state agencies.

This review affirms that:

- 1. LCPS facilities were originally constructed according to the building codes in effect at the time.
- 2. All subsequent construction, renovations, and additions comply with current accessibility standards, including the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
- 3. LCPS maintains annual processes for ongoing review and continuous improvement in accessibility.

Methodology of Review

LCPS conducted a thorough, school-by-school review of all district facilities, including associated grounds and athletic areas. The review followed the framework outlined in 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." The process included:

- 1. Review of the current Virginia USBC, including the Virginia Construction Code (VCC), Virginia Existing Building Code (VEBC), ICC A117.1, and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. All facilities were assessed against these standards for any alterations or new construction since their original build.
- 2. Verification that original construction and existing components adhered to the codes in effect at the time, including the Virginia Maintenance Code (VMC) where applicable.

Summary of Findings

LCPS confirms that all facilities meet the building codes that were in effect at the time of their original construction. Further, all subsequent renovations and additions have complied with the applicable Virginia USBC and ADA standards. HB2278's emphasis on current conditions—rather than historical compliance—highlights that while buildings were designed to meet earlier requirements, ongoing improvements have aimed to align with evolving codes and accessibility

needs. This assessment also reveals opportunities for further enhancements to ensure inclusivity for all students, staff, families, and visitors.

Proactive Accessibility Action Plan

LCPS integrates accessibility upgrades into its annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process. Each year, the CIP review focuses on identifying and removing barriers that limit program and activity participation for individuals with disabilities. The process is informed by the following:

- Administrator Feedback: Concerns about program access and site-specific observations
- Facilities Department Assessments: Analysis of building conditions and identification of barriers
- Capital Needs: Lifecycle planning and cost analysis for project prioritization
- Security Considerations: Circulation, egress, and operational constraints

Screening & Prioritization

- Evaluate projects for safety, accessibility, impact, feasibility, and alignment with funding
- Develop preliminary scopes and cost estimates for CIP decision-making

The CIP framework is updated annually to reflect current conditions, new stakeholder input, and available resources.

Conclusion

Louisa County Public Schools is committed to providing safe, inclusive, and accessible learning environments for all. This review confirms compliance with all relevant codes and outlines clear steps for ongoing improvement. To meet the goals of HB2278, LCPS respectfully requests targeted support from the Virginia General Assembly, emphasizing the need for resources to accompany any new mandates. LCPS welcomes collaboration with state agencies to continue advancing accessibility in every public school within the Commonwealth of Virginia.