



September 30, 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
House Education Committee
201 North 9th Street
Virginia General Assembly Building
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senator Hashmi and Delegate Rasoul,

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

The Division Contact for this report is:
Shannon Brown, Assistant Superintendent
Patrick County Public Schools
PO Box 346
Stuart, VA 24171

Respectfully,

Jason Wood, PhD
Superintendent



Amy E. Walker, Chairman Mayo River District
Shannon R. Harrell, Vice Chairman Blue Ridge District
Robert S. Martin – Dan River District
Lester G. Harrell– Peters Creek District
Walter L. Scott – Smith River District
Jason A. Wood, Division Superintendent

Report on Accessibility In Accordance with Virginia House Bill 2278

In compliance with Virginia House Bill 2278 (2025), Patrick County Public Schools (PCPS) has conducted a division-wide review of the accessibility of all school buildings, grounds, and programs for individuals with disabilities. This review focuses on:

1. Physical accessibility challenges in school buildings and grounds.
2. Programmatic and support accessibility for students, staff, and families.
3. The plan is to address and eliminate barriers to full participation.
4. Areas for collaboration with state agencies to ensure sustainable progress.

Patrick County Public Schools affirms the following:

- All facilities were constructed initially to comply with the building codes in effect at the time of their construction.
- Renovations and additions have been completed in compliance with the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
- PCPS maintains annual review and improvement processes to address accessibility needs in both facilities and programming.

The review followed the guidance 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*), as recommended by HB2278.

The process included:

- Facility-by-facility assessments of school buildings, grounds, and athletic facilities.
- Review of compliance with the Virginia USBC, including the Virginia Construction Code, Virginia Existing Building Code, ICC A117.1, and the 2010 ADA Standards.
- Consideration of original construction codes and the Virginia Maintenance Code (VMC) for baseline compliance.
- Stakeholder engagement, including input from Special Education staff, facilities personnel, design professionals, parents, and community representatives.



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Summary of Findings

- Compliance with Construction Standards: PCPS facilities were constructed according to the codes in effect at the time of their construction. Subsequent renovations have complied with the Virginia USBC and ADA standards.
- Accessibility Conditions: While compliant with historical codes, school modernization followed ADA standards to ensure adequate access to facilities.
- Programmatic Barriers: Feedback from the Special Education Advisory Committee did not highlight issues at this time.
- Opportunities for Improvement: HB2278 emphasizes the importance of looking beyond minimum compliance. PCPS recognizes opportunities to improve signage and future improvements as funds are available.

Action Plan

Accessibility is embedded in the annual safety audit and facilities review process, which considers physical and programmatic accessibility as a standing priority. Each year, accessibility-related concerns are collected, evaluated, and prioritized alongside other capital needs.

Capital Improvement Plan Inputs

- Administrator Requests: Concerns regarding program access and site-level observations.
- Facilities Department Reviews: Identification of physical barriers, including egress challenges.
- Capital Needs: Long-term maintenance, building improvements, and cost assessments.
- Safety & Security Evaluations: Integration of accessibility with safe evacuation and student and visitor movement within a school.



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Screening & Prioritization Criteria

- Safety and Accessibility Impact.
- Degree of student, staff, and family impact.
- Feasibility of implementation.
- Alignment with available funding.

This process produces planning-level scopes and cost estimates for capital improvement prioritization. Accessibility upgrades are incorporated into both short-term maintenance and long-term renovation plans.

Role of State Agencies

Patrick County Public Schools respectfully requests targeted state support to ensure equity across Virginia's public schools. Areas where state agencies could provide assistance include:

- Dedicated funding streams to support ADA upgrades in rural school divisions.
- Technical assistance for conducting specialized accessibility audits.
- Grants for assistive technology and programmatic supports beyond physical facilities.

Patrick County Public Schools is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and accessible environment for all students, staff, families, and visitors. This report confirms baseline compliance with relevant codes while documenting a forward-looking strategy for accessibility improvement.

Consistent with HB2278, PCPS pledges to continue this work and urges state partners to provide the resources necessary to achieve sustainable systemic progress.