

Charter School Performance Compact: ADA Requirements

Charter schools must comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. ADA regulations require schools to make sure that all programs, services, and activities are accessible to people with disabilities.

Areas of Accessibility

Required Regulatory Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrances, Corridors and Stairs • Walkways, Curbs, and Ramps • Parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom Acoustics • Classroom Lighting • Ergonomics
Areas without Specific Regulatory Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should make at least one element (workstation, auditorium seat, etc.) accessible for these areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use technical standards from the ADA Standards for Accessible Design for reach range, floor clear space, counter height, etc.

Facilities Requirements

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title II regulations do not require every part of an existing facility to be accessible. • Any new construction must be designed and built to be accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. • Alterations that affect usability have the same requirement as new construction. • Existing facilities (built before January 26, 1992) should focus on making sure students and others with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in school programs, services, and activities.

How to Provide Access

Reassignment of Services	Adapting Equipment	Provide Aids	Structural Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate classes or activities to accessible ground-level floors • Reassign classes or activities to other buildings that are accessible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower or raise equipment • Redesign items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Relocate control panels ○ Replace grip/twist devices with levers ○ Alter door closure devices ○ Provide audible or visual alarm signals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aides can assist students when classroom equipment needs modification • Aides also ensure people with disabilities can exit safely from areas in an emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While not required if other modifications are made, structural changes must be made if there is no other way to provide accessibility.

Additional Information

ADA Resource	Website
Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments	http://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/toolkitmain.htm
Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities	https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/design-standards/
Regulations and Technical Assistance Materials	https://www.ada.gov/resources/title-iii-manual/
National Network: Information, Guidance, and Training	https://adata.org/
National Center for State Courts	https://www.ncsc.org/consulting-and-research/areas-of-expertise/courthouse-planning-and-security/planning/planning-and-design-guide/topics-a-h/needs-of-persons-with-disabilities

This informational document is a general guide to inform schools of basic requirements. It is NOT a substitute for federal, state guidelines and/or the appropriate state and local policies. Please visit the websites above for more information or contact the Office of School Choice with questions.