

RESOLUTION OF THE ALBEMARLE COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Albemarle County Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is charged pursuant to 8 VAC 20-81-230(D) of the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia with advising the Albemarle County School Board on matters affecting the education of students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12131 et seq., and its implementing regulations; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. § 794; and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.; collectively require that public school facilities be accessible to students with disabilities and that such students receive a free appropriate public education in accessible environments; and

WHEREAS, Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) enrollment projections show steady growth across the district over the next decade, and approximately 13% of students in ACPS receive special education services, meaning that accessible facilities must be planned to serve a growing population of students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Albemarle County Public Schools Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LRPAC) has conducted facility assessments identifying critical accessibility deficiencies at Stony Point Elementary School, Murray Elementary School, and Broadus Wood Elementary School, including inaccessible lifts and clinic spaces, unserviceable student support offices, and undersized support spaces; and

WHEREAS, the LRPAC has recommended capital investments totaling approximately \$52.9 million for these three schools in the five-year Capital Improvement Plan, including installation of ADA-compliant lifts, expanded facilities, and removal of modular classroom units currently used for student services; and

WHEREAS, the LRPAC has recommended construction of a fourth comprehensive high school to address overcrowding, and such new construction would be designed and built in full compliance with current 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, 28 C.F.R. § 35.151, providing students with disabilities a learning environment with accessibility features that the County's existing high schools—which were originally constructed decades ago under less rigorous standards—cannot readily provide; and

WHEREAS, the continued use of outdated and modular units for delivery of educational and related services disproportionately impact students with disabilities, who often require private, appropriate spaces, and a child's access to adequate educational facilities should not depend upon which school they attend;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Albemarle County Special Education Advisory Committee:

1. **Urges** the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors to prioritize funding for the capital improvement projects identified by the LRPAC, including elementary school renovations and the construction of a new high school;
2. **Emphasizes** that improvements to school accessibility are necessary for compliance with federal law and to ensure that students with disabilities receive appropriate services in adequate facilities;
3. **Calls for** the expedited remediation of accessibility barriers identified by LRPAC at Stony Point Elementary School, Murray Elementary School, and Broadus Wood Elementary School;
4. **Supports** the elimination of modular classroom units through permanent facility expansions that meet current accessibility standards and provide appropriate learning environments for all students;
5. **Requests** that the Board of Supervisors work collaboratively with the School Board to identify and secure additional funding sources to ensure that improvements to the district's oldest and most deficient facilities are not indefinitely deferred in favor of other capital projects; and
6. **Affirms** that investing in accessible, safe, and adequate school facilities for all students—including those with disabilities—is a matter of equity, legal compliance, and sound educational policy.

ADOPTED this 18th day of February, 2026, by the Albemarle County Special Education Advisory Committee.