

# School Physical Accessibility

This playbook provides a structured approach for schools to ensure their environment is physically accessible to students with mobility and physical challenges. It includes steps to assess, plan, implement, and maintain accessibility features.

## Step 1: **Assessment**

Conduct a thorough assessment of the school's physical environment to identify potential barriers to accessibility. This includes evaluating entrances, exits, classrooms, restrooms, and common areas. Use a checklist to ensure all areas are accounted for.

## Step 2: **Planning**

Develop a detailed plan to address the identified barriers. This should include timelines, budget considerations, and specification of necessary modifications or additions such as ramps, elevators, and accessible restrooms. Collaborate with experts in accessibility design.

## Step 3: **Approval**

Present the plan to the school board or relevant authority for approval. Ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Secure funding and permissions as needed.

## **Step 4: Implementation**

Execute the approved accessibility plan. This may include construction projects, rearranging furniture, and installing signage. Ensure minimal disruption during the school term by possibly scheduling construction during breaks.

## **Step 5: Training**

Provide training for staff and students on how to make best use of the new accessibility features and to raise awareness on issues faced by individuals with mobility and physical challenges.

## **Step 6: Maintenance**

Establish a regular maintenance schedule for new accessibility features to keep them safe and functional. Assign responsibilities to specific staff members or departments.

## **Step 7: Feedback**

Gather feedback from students with mobility and physical challenges and other stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness of the accessibility measures and identify areas for further improvement.

# **General Notes**

## **Community Involvement**

Engage with students, parents, and disability advocacy groups in the assessment and planning phases to ensure diverse perspectives and needs are considered.

## Continuous Update

Review the accessibility plan annually and update it as new needs emerge or as there are changes in student population, infrastructure, or disability legislation.

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