

ADA Requirements

Title II

- The ADA covers anyone who has a physical, sensory, cognitive or mental disability of any level of severity. In a school setting, the ADA covers students, parents and employees. The ADA covers academics, extracurricular activities and athletics. The ADA also covers off-campus activities. Title II is the section of the ADA that is most applicable to public schools. Title II says that state and local government services cannot discriminate against individuals because of a disability.

Requirements

- Public school districts must provide a free education, in an integrated setting where possible, to students with disabilities and make accommodations for their individual educational needs. Services provided depending on the student's disability can include special education or physical therapy. In addition, schools may need to adjust test-taking rules or absence policies to accommodate the needs of a student with a disability. Title II of the ADA also gives students the right not to be harassed or discriminated against because of their disability.

Read more : http://www.ehow.com/info_7957921_ada-requirements-public-schools.html

From : http://www.ehow.com/info_7883272_ada-requirements-classroom-seating.html

The Americans with Disabilities Act sets minimum requirements that will allow facilities to be accessible to people with disabilities. Classroom and school settings are listed in these standards to allow for functional use of space and accommodation for all learners. Requirements are slightly varied -- based on the purpose of the classroom -- with a minimum of 2 percent of the seating available for wheelchairs and 31-inch clearance of tables.

1. Accessible Design

- The ADA's standard of accessible design incorporates seven principles: equitable use, flexibility in use, simple and intuitive use, perceptible information, tolerance for error, low physical effort and size and space for approach and use into the design of a space or facility.

Requirements

- The ADA states that at least 5 percent of classroom tables must be wheelchair-accessible. Tables must be between 28 and 34 inches high with at least 24 inches of knee clearance to accommodate students in wheelchairs. Adjustable tables are recommended, but not required, to better accommodate students. If tablet-arm chairs are provided, 10 percent should be left-hand accessible and the tablet should be at least 130 square inches with a textured seat. Classrooms with one entrance and exit are limited to a 49-person capacity.

Lecture Halls

- College and university classes are often taught in large lecture halls. The ADA has special requirements for lecture hall settings. For theater-style seating, the seats must be 21 inches wide or larger and fold-down tablet arms should be provided. Aisles should be present in the lecture hall to

provide connection between the teacher and students. A semicircle arrangement of tiered seats is ideal, but not required. If there is a platform in the room, ADA requirements state there must be ramp access. If stadium seating is not utilized, standard-size chairs with a sled base are preferred.

Computer Rooms

- In many classroom settings there are computer work areas. A dedicated computer classroom requires 30 to 35 square feet per person. The workspace must be 30 inches deep and 36 inches wide per person, although between 42- and 48-inch-wide spaces are preferred. There should be sufficient workspace around the computer for students to take notes.

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Parking and Entry

- Under ADA guidelines, schools must have a certain number of handicapped parking spots. Each one must have open access next to it, measuring five feet wide. One access aisle between two parking spaces is not sufficient. The aisle must be connected to a route that leads into the building. The parking spots must be relatively flat -- with no more than a 2 percent slope in any direction. Ramps on the outside of schools must be designed to be one foot of vertical rise to 20 feet of horizontal length. If there is a canopy above the walkway, it needs to extend beyond the curb, so that a person with disabilities can get out of a vehicle and still be protected.

Restrooms

- ADA mandates hand washing stations in classrooms be accessible to people with disabilities. Drains, hot-water pipes and sharp objects under the sinks must be covered and protected. People must be able to operate faucets with one hand, easily, with less than 5 lbs. of force. Metered faucets must remain running for at least 10 seconds. The ADA prefers faucets that are operated by a lever or paddle, because no hand gripping is required. For children, hands-free faucets and soap dispensers are a good choice. All accessories must be mounted no higher than 26 to 44 inches, depending on the age of the children at the school. Built-in, recessed trash cans are a better option than a free-standing trash can. Hand dryers cannot stick out more than 4 inches from the mounted wall.

Assembly Areas

- Assembly areas such as stadiums, grandstands and bleachers must provide access to people in wheelchairs and their companions. Under the 2010 standards, the wheelchair spaces must be dispersed in all areas around the stage, court or field that have an accessible route. The spaces cannot be blocked by movable structures or platforms. If the wheelchair spaces are not needed, schools are permitted to put removable seats there.

Housing

- Schools with housing, such as boarding schools, colleges or home for at-risk youth, must comply with additional ADA regulations under the transient housing section. There must be an accessible route to all sleeping rooms. Kitchens within housing units, such as suites, must comply with ADA standards. This includes the placement of work surfaces at a height accessible to people with disabilities.

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Building Accessibility

- New buildings must be accessible for people with disabilities, such as people with wheelchairs or crutches. The ADA does not require that school districts make building modifications that would create an undue financial burden on the school district or alter programs in a way that would change the fundamental nature of the program to accommodate disabilities. However, if a school district cannot make a building accessible to the disabled, they still must meet their obligation to provide program access to disabled students. School districts in this situation often opt to provide services in a location that is accessible. They may also choose to provide disabled students with direct assistance. For example, if a library is inaccessible, a library worker may bring the books to the student.

From: http://www.ehow.com/list_6781585_ada-door-regulations.html

Door Opening

- The first thing to consider is the width of the door through which people pass. The opening needs to be at least 32 inches wide. If you have double doors, at least one of the doors needs to create an opening that's 32 inches wide.

Door Hardware

- The hardware of the door needs to be easy to grasp, even with just one hand. You need to be able to turn the door handle with a minimum of effort. The hardware itself must be at least 48 inches from the floor. As for the choice of hardware, both a lever and a push bar are acceptable under ADA regulations.

Door Threshold

- The threshold cannot be too high to prevent easy access with a wheelchair. For an interior door, the threshold can be 1/2 inch high. For an exterior door that slides, ADA regulations allow for a height of 3/4 inch. The slope of the threshold should be an inch of height for every 12 horizontal inches.

Force to Open the Door

- To open the door, only a small amount of force should be needed. For a sliding door, a hinged interior door or a folding door, this should require only five pounds of force. The force to open a fire door, however, is determined by the building code in your community.

Automatic Doors

- According to the ADA, automatic door openers must be low-energy, meaning, it should not take a lot of force to activate them. The device must activate within three seconds, measured from the moment you push or trigger the door to the moment it stops against the back check. If you wish to interrupt the automatic cycle, you need to be able to do so by applying only 15 pounds of force. It's

possible to have automatic door openers/closers on double doors, but the opening must meet the ADA requirement (32 inches).

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Complaints

- If you believe your school district has discriminated against you because of your disability, you may file a complaint with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). File the complaint within 180 days of the incident. The DOJ will review the matter and refer the case for mediation or file a lawsuit on your behalf.

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Disability Rights Section – NYAV
Washington, D.C. 20530
<http://www.ada.gov>
800-514-0301 (voice)
800-514-0383 (TTY)

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