



Common Access Errors in School Design & Construction

You can avoid common accessible design and construction errors. Be sure to review plans for the following access elements. (521 CMR is cited when it is more stringent than ADAAG.) You can see our Boston Society of Architects presentation on [Common Access Errors in School Design and Construction](#) on our website. Feel free to forward this to your colleagues and contractors.

1. Make all exterior accessible routes accessible. [521 CMR 22.1](#) (*pdf)
2. Disperse accessible parking. [4.6.2](#)
3. Provide an accessible, exterior means of egress to a public way. [521 CMR 20.11.2](#) (*pdf)
4. Provide automatic door openers on all exterior entrance doors. [521 CMR 26.8.1a](#) (*pdf)
5. Provide at least one leaf of double doors with 32" (min.) clear opening. [4.13.5](#)
6. Provide more than one elevator in larger school buildings. [28 CFR 35 130](#)
7. Locate the accessible route to the stage within the assembly area. [521 CMR 14.6](#) (*pdf)
8. Provide handrails on assembly area aisles steeper than 5%. [521 CMR 24.5](#) (*pdf)
9. Provide integrated accessible seating in assembly areas. [521 CMR 14.4](#) (*pdf)
10. Make all toilet rooms accessible, including faculty and visitors. [4.1.3 \(11\)](#)
11. Ensure that all toilet centerlines are 11.5"- 18.5" from the closest wall. 521 CMR [2.4.4](#) & [30.7.2](#) & [30.14.2](#) (*pdf)
12. Ensure that toilet flush valves are located on the wide side of the toilet. [4.16.5](#)
13. Avoid handrails and transaction counters as 'protruding objects.' [4.4.1](#)

14. Design ramps with slopes the least possible slope, never greater than 1:12. [4.8.2](#)
15. Ensure construction complies with your accessible design. [28 CFR Parts 35](#) & [36](#)