



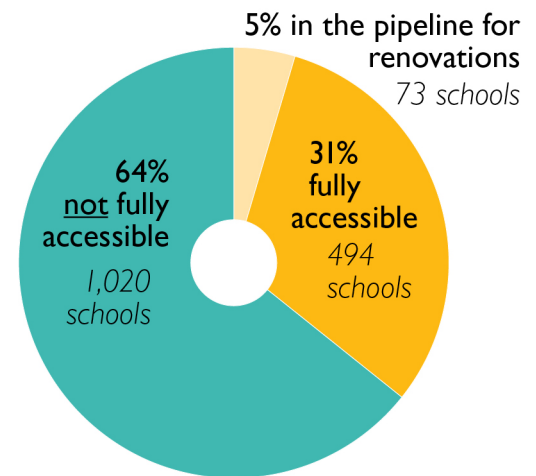
ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK

Capital Budget Priority for FY 2025–2029

IMPROVE SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY

More than 30 years after the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability, physical barriers to full inclusion remain widespread in New York City's schools—and as a result, New Yorkers with disabilities continue to be excluded from buildings that are central to public life. In fact, **as of the start of the 2023–24 school year, only 31% of schools are fully accessible to students, teachers, parents, and community members with disabilities.**

For the child who cannot attend their neighborhood school because every entrance sits atop a flight of stairs, the parent or grandparent who has to miss every concert and school play because the auditorium cannot accommodate their wheelchair, or the school social worker whose employment opportunities are constrained by the lack of accessible bathrooms, the ADA still exists in name only.



➔ Go to <https://bit.ly/AccessibilityMap> to see the state of school accessibility in your district.

Five years ago, the situation was much worse—fewer than one in five schools was fully accessible as of the start of the 2018–19 school year—and New York City invested a historic \$750 million in the 2020–2024 Capital Plan to improve school accessibility. While this funding has enabled significant progress, there is much work left to do: NYC Public Schools itself estimated that it would take \$1 billion in each of the next four five-year plans to reach “maximum practical accessibility” by 2045.

At a minimum, the City must make the investments necessary to keep pace with the work done over the past five years. The proposed 2025–2029 Capital Plan includes \$800 million for school accessibility projects, **an amount that would represent a decreased commitment to improving school accessibility once inflation is taken into account.** This sum represents less than 5% of all proposed capital spending for NYC Public Schools for the next five years.

The City should allocate an additional \$450 million—for a total investment of \$1.25 billion—for school accessibility projects in the 2025–2029 Capital Plan, with the goal of making at least 50% of buildings that serve as the primary location for a school fully accessible by 2030.