

Tupelo Middle School (TMS) ADA Audit of Building Facilities

Date of Audit: January 22, 2025

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Purpose: This audit assesses the accessibility of Tupelo Middle School (TMS) facilities to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to identify areas that require improvement for students, teachers, staff, parents/caregivers, and community members with disabilities. This evaluation aligns with ethical decision-making and professional norms that support an inclusive and equitable educational environment.

1. Parking and External Accessibility

- **ADA-Compliant Parking Spaces:** 12 designated accessible spaces available, properly marked, and located near main and side entrances.
- **Curb Cuts & Ramps:** Four curb ramps in good condition, two requiring minor repairs due to cracks.
- **Sidewalks & Pathways:** All sidewalks meet width requirements; however, the pathway from the visitor parking lot to the main entrance has a steep incline that may need regrading.

2. Entrances & Exits

- **Main Entry Accessibility:** Equipped with an automatic sliding door and an additional ramp with handrails.
- **Alternative Accessible Entrances:** Three alternative accessible entry points available, but signage is limited.
- **Emergency Exits:** 80% of emergency exits are ADA compliant, but two exits near the gym lack proper ramp access.

3. Interior Accessibility

- **Hallways & Doorways:** Hallways exceed the 36-inch width requirement, but several classroom doors have heavy push doors without automatic openers.
- **Elevators:** One central elevator available and functional, but slow response time noted.
- **Stairways:** Well-lit with handrails on both sides, but tactile warning strips need repainting.
- **Signage:** Most rooms have ADA-compliant Braille signage, but the library and science labs lack proper labeling.

4. Restrooms

- **Accessible Stalls:** Each restroom has at least one ADA stall, but the faculty restroom in the east wing lacks grab bars.
- **Sink & Mirror Heights:** All sinks are within compliance; mirrors in student restrooms are too high and need adjustment.
- **Automatic Fixtures:** 50% of faucets are touchless, but soap dispensers require manual operation.

5. Classrooms & Instructional Spaces

- **Desk and Seating Arrangements:** Five classrooms lack wheelchair-accessible desks; additional seating is recommended.
- **Technology Access:** Two classrooms are equipped with assistive technology, but three lack screen readers or FM systems.
- **Acoustic & Visual Aids:** The auditorium has a working FM system, but some classrooms have poor acoustics that may require additional soundproofing.

6. Cafeteria & Common Areas

- **Seating & Tables:** Five wheelchair-accessible tables available, but placement obstructs some pathways.
- **Service Counters:** Counters meet ADA height standards, but trays are difficult to reach for wheelchair users.

7. Auditorium, Gymnasium, & Extracurricular Spaces

- **Seating:** Auditorium has six wheelchair-accessible seating areas, but no companion seating.
- **Athletic Facilities:** Gym locker rooms lack accessible benches; field access requires an additional ramp.
- **Stage Access:** Portable ramp available, but no permanent lift installed.

8. Library & Media Center

- **Book & Resource Accessibility:** 80% of shelves are within reach; some higher shelves require step stools.
- **Study Areas:** One designated accessible workstation; more recommended.

9. Staff & Administrative Offices

- **Office Accessibility:** Main office is accessible, but two counselor offices have narrow doorways.

- **Communication Aids:** One office has a video relay service for deaf visitors, but additional training for staff is needed.

10. Community & Parent/Caregiver Accessibility

- **Meeting Spaces:** One accessible conference room available, but limited seating options.
- **Event Access:** School functions offer reserved accessible seating; however, ramps for stage access are temporary.

11. Compliance & Recommendations

- **Current Compliance Status:** 85% ADA compliant; minor improvements needed.
 - **Identified Barriers:** Classroom door access, outdated restroom facilities, limited signage.
 - **Proposed Solutions & Timelines:**
 - Install additional push-button door openers (by June 2025).
 - Upgrade restrooms with grab bars and automatic soap dispensers (by August 2025).
 - Improve signage throughout the building (by December 2025).
 - **Funding & Resources:** Exploring district funds and local grants for accessibility upgrades.
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Conclusion

This ADA audit of Tupelo Middle School highlights strengths in accessibility and areas requiring improvement to ensure full compliance with ADA regulations. Addressing these concerns will enhance inclusivity, demonstrating a commitment to ethical decision-making and professional norms that support equitable access for all members of the school community.