

OUTDOOR ACCESSIBLE FURNITURE

Handout #5

All construction at Nashville schools must have the plans and construction approved by Metro's ADA Compliance Division. The Compliance Division's assessment for outdoor furniture is based on the proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas. A brief overview of the sections on picnic tables and benches:

Picnic Tables

1. Applies only to picnic tables that are fixed to the ground, including tables attached by a chain.
2. If one fixed picnic table is provided in an area it must be accessible. If two or more fixed picnic tables are provided in an area, 50 percent, but no less than two must be accessible.
3. An accessible picnic table must have a wheelchair seating location. If the table top perimeter exceeds 24 linear feet it must have two wheelchair seating locations. For every 20 linear feet increase of table top perimeter another wheelchair seating location is required, up to five locations for table top perimeters over 85 linear feet. The guidelines do not require, but recommend a variety of wheelchair space placements to provide users a choice between the center and the ends of tables.
4. Wheelchair seating locations must provide knee space at least 27" high, 30" wide and 19" deep. Toe clearance 9" high minimum must extend an additional 5" from the knee clearance.
5. A minimum 36" wide clear space must be provided around the table.
6. The clear space and wheelchair space must have a stable, firm and slip-resistant surface with slopes not exceeding 2%.

Benches

1. Applies only to fixed benches.
2. If one fixed bench is provided in an area, it must be accessible. If two or more fixed benches are provided at least 50% must be accessible. 50%, with at least one, of the benches required to be accessible must have an armrest.
3. At least one clear space 30" by 48" must be provided at one end of the bench positioned to allow wheelchair users to be seated shoulder-to-shoulder with an individual seated on the bench. The surface of the clear space must be stable, firm and slip-resistant with slopes not exceeding 2%.
4. The seat surface of accessible benches is 17" to 19" above the ground.
5. Back support must be provided the full length of accessible benches.
6. The armrests required on 50% of the accessible benches must be able to support 250 pounds of force.

This is a brief overview, the actual guidelines will govern and should be referred to for planning, acquisition or construction of accessible furniture. The proposed guidelines are on-line, search access-board.gov and click on Outdoor Developed Areas in the left column. The scoping for picnic tables is found in section T206 with technical provisions in T306. For benches scoping is in section T213 with technical provisions in T313.