Best regards,

Somerville
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2009

Betsy M. Allen
Director I ADA Coordinator
City of Somerville
Executive Office on Disability & Compliance

Item #
200695   ①

From: Emmanuel Andrade [mailto:eandrade@humancentereddesign.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 4:55 PM
To: Betsy Allen
Cc: eandrade@IHCDesign.org
Subject: RE: ESCS - summary of accessibility issues
Importance: High

Hi Betsy,

Here's a summary of accessibility issues found at East Somerville Community School, based on our walk-though on 10/01/2013:

Parking
- Surface of van-designated parking space exceed the maximum allowable slope of 2% (3.6%)

Outdoor Areas
- Concrete walkway off Cross Street (nearest to basketball courts) exceeds the maximum allowable running slope of 5% (5.7%-6.4%).
- Walkway adjacent to soccer field exceeds maximum allowable cross slope of 2% (4.6%)
- Gates to basketball courts and soccer field do not have smooth surface.

Entrance

1

- 20+ ITEMS
  ALL BUT

- The controls of intercoms located at both accessible entrances (Cross & Glenn Streets) exceed the maximum allowable height.
- At all entrances, weather mats that are not securely attached to the floor create tripping hazards and barriers to those using wheeled mobility devices.

Corridors
- The structural diagonal bracing system at the perimeter of the courtyard creates protruding objects along the corridors.

Doors
- On all interior wood doors to the auditorium (#121) on level 1, the glass vision panels exceed the maximum allowable height.
- On fire doors (double doors) on all floor levels, the glass vision panels exceed the maximum allowable height.

Toilet Rooms
- Girl's & Boys toilet rooms (#116A & B) on level 1 have:
  - lavatories with non-compliant clear floor space underneath
  - grab bars that are obstructed by toilet paper dispenser and flush valve inside the accessible stall

Other Items
- On all floor levels, it's unclear that at least 5% of the lockers is accessible.
- In the cafeteria (#141) on level 1, it's unclear that at least 5% of the seats is accessible.
- Inside Science Lab Prep (#208A) on level 2, the fume hood could not be operated independently.
- The knee space underneath of most sinks (inside classrooms, laboratories, and nurse room) on all floor levels is obstructed by storage and trash cans.
- In the corridor on level 1 (#102), a first aid box creates a dangerous protruding object.

Signage
- Designation sign of auditorium (#121) is misplaced.
- All exits (especially the inaccessible exits) from the gymnasium (#161) do not have the proper egress signage.
- Designation sign to Teachers Lunch Room (#150) from auditorium is missing.

Although they are not minimum compliance issues, the following items are missing opportunities for good design of a new school:

- **stairs off pearl street leading to playground:** this is a major entry point for the community to access the playground after school hours. A ramp, which would work better for parents with strollers, could have been placed at this location instead of steps.
- **hi-low drinking fountain located at girls/boys toilet rooms on level 1:** this drinking fountain is mounted at a height for adults. A drinking fountain for children height could have been installed at this location. Instead, small children can only reach the drinking fountain with the use of stools.
- **lift inside auditorium:** the stage is at the same level as the corridor, which means that a direct and level connection between seating and stage could have been provided inside the auditorium. Instead, students using wheeled mobility devices must operate a slow and extremely loud platform lift (which will interrupt any activity occurring on the stage) or exit the auditorium and navigate over 100 feet along the corridor to reach the stage.

I'm so sorry it took me this long to send this memo to you. I hope you find it useful.

Best regards,

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