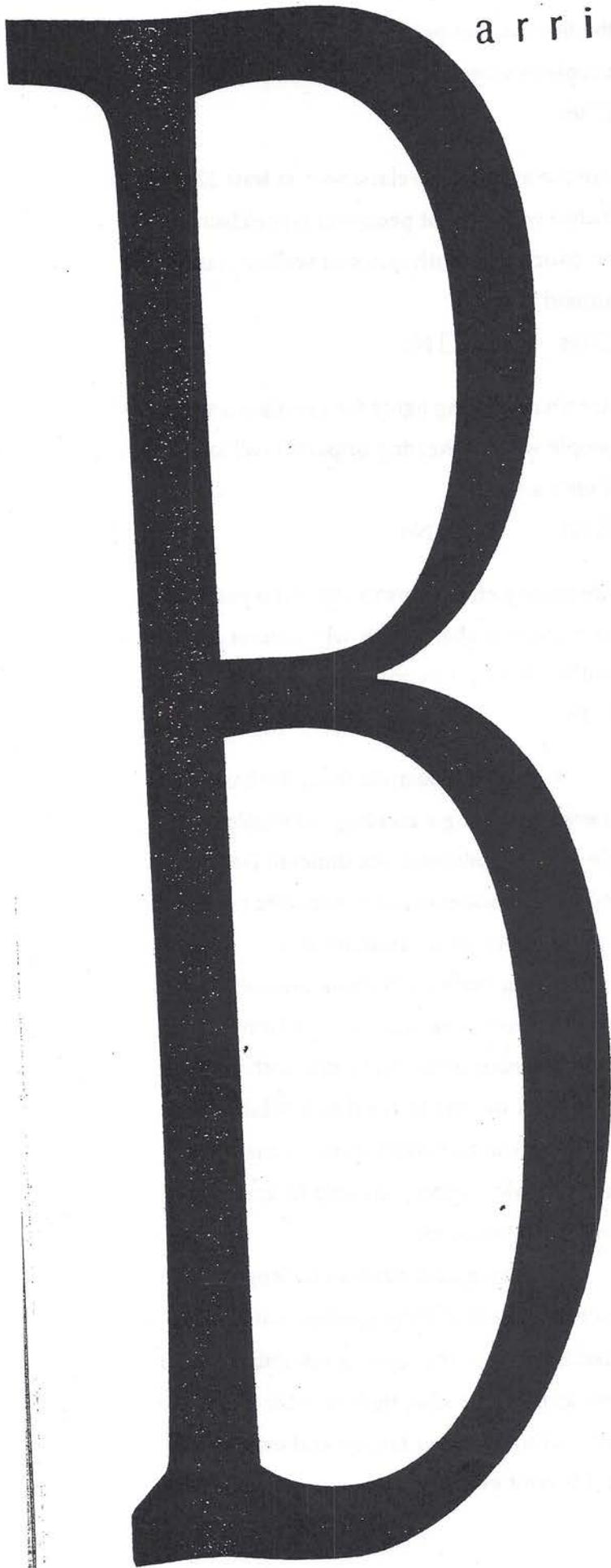


# Barriers Checklist



A barrier is something that makes it difficult or impossible for a person with a disability to get into or around a building. Is your school or building barrier free? Use this checklist to find out. And if your school or building does not do very well on the checklist, don't be too surprised. Most buildings still have barriers, but thankfully, not for long. The Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws and regulations are helping to remove barriers in various facilities. Let's check the accessibility of your building.

Does the main entrance to your school have a ramp or a level entrance?

Yes       No

Are the doorknobs of a \_\_\_\_\_ less than three feet from the ground so people \_\_\_\_\_ can reach them?

Yes       No

Do the hallways have handrails to help people walk?

Yes       No

Are there parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities? Are these spaces near the building entrance? Are they 12 feet wide? Are at least two out of every 100 spaces reserved for people with disabilities?

Yes       No

Are there curb cuts so that people with wheelchairs or with baby carriages or shopping carts can pass easily?

Yes       No

Are there tactile markings (can be felt by touch) cut into the sidewalk to warn people who are blind?

Yes       No

If your school has more than one floor, does it have an elevator?

Yes       No

Are the top floor buttons no more than three feet from the ground and are they marked with Braille?

Yes       No

Does the elevator have light and bell signals to help people who are blind or deaf to know when the elevator is ready?

Yes       No

Are the doorways to all bathrooms at least 33 inches wide?

Yes       No

Are the sinks low enough? (Get a chair and see if you can reach the sink while you're sitting in the chair.)

Yes       No

Are the telephones in the building accessible? (Use the same test as for sinks.)

Yes       No

Are the fire alarms low enough for people in wheelchairs?

Yes       No

Are there grab bars in the bathroom stalls so that people can lift themselves from a wheelchair to the toilet and back again?

Yes       No

Are the windows 24 inches or 28 inches from the floor so that people who are short and people in wheelchairs can see out?

Yes       No

Are the aisles in the classroom at least 32 inches wide so that people in wheelchairs, or on crutches, or with canes or walkers, can get around easily?

Yes       No

Are there flashing lights for fire alarms so that people who are hearing impaired will know if there's a fire?

Yes       No

Are there picture signs to show the purpose of each room so that people who cannot read will know where to go?

Yes       No

As you have learned from the barriers checklist, making a building accessible to people with disabilities is not difficult. But it does require an awareness of the specific needs of people with various disabilities.

If your building needs accessibility improvements, the Governor's Planning Council encourages you to talk with building officials or owners to see if accessibility problems can be solved. In some cases, tax credits or deductions can help finance these improvements.

By solving accessibility challenges, everyone benefits. When people with disabilities have the same accessibility to facilities as everyone else, they are able to more fully contribute their talents and experiences and benefit everyone.