

## **Progress Continues on Accessibility Upgrades (May 09)**

Progress has continued throughout the 2008-09 school year on accessibility improvement district-wide. In addition to ADA upgrades incorporated into major projects in the 2006 bond program (such as the Performing Arts Center), many other projects have been completed.

Following the May 2008 Board approval of Dr. Wellman's recommendation to direct \$1 million of bond interest earnings to additional accessibility improvements, the SMART (Scheduled Maintenance and Repair Team) initiative moved forward. A specially equipped workshop on wheels and a staff of three have completed nearly 1,200 items that were targeted for modification or replacement. About 1,000 items still need attention, including many that require architectural/engineering design. Recently two design firms have started drawing up plans for several of those projects.

At the recent March Board meeting Dr. Wellman brought another \$1 million recommendation to the Board for continued improvements and it was approved. This action will allow projects to be planned for the summer months without interference to campus routines. Some summer projects already being planned are: playgrounds at Forest Trail, various renovations at Hill Country including an accessible ramp to the 8th Grade Wing and several exterior routes, an accessible route to the playfields at West Ridge and an accessible ramp to the cafeteria stage at Valley View.