BEYOND THE BUILDING:

Building More Accessible and Connected Campuses



Choate Rosemary Hall pedestrian bridge

At Choate Rosemary Hall, a new pedestrian bridge demonstrates how thoughtful campus infrastructure—and careful construction—can create safer, more accessible, and better-connected environments.

Accessibility on a campus is about more than entering a building. The routes between classrooms, residence halls, athletic facilities, parking areas, and gathering spaces are part of the student experience, too. When those connections are safe, intuitive, and accessible, they help everyone move more independently through campus life.

At Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut, a newly completed pedestrian bridge puts that idea into practice. As general contractor, KBE Building Corporation constructed the approximately 66-foot span across Christian Street, creating a dedicated connection between the school's north and south campuses and improving pedestrian access across a heavily traveled roadway.

Accessibility as a Campus-Wide Experience

The bridge was only one part of the solution. ADA-compliant ramps and accessible approaches integrate the crossing into Choate's broader circulation network, allowing students, faculty, staff, and visitors with varying mobility needs to use the same primary route. The result is a connection that feels like part of the campus—not a separate accommodation added after the fact.

That integration also extends to the character of the site. A wood boardwalk, iron guardrails, stone support structures, landscaping, and porous pavement help the new infrastructure sit naturally within Choate's established campus environment while also addressing stormwater management and surrounding site conditions.

For KBE, that balance is central to work on active educational campuses: improving accessibility and safety while respecting each institution's architecture, operations, and daily rhythms.

Different Campuses, a Common Goal

The same principle can take very different forms from one campus to another. In New Haven, KBE is currently completing accessibility upgrades at a local university to improve campus access and mobility. The work includes the addition of an elevator along with improvements to entrances and stairwells, enhancing accessibility within an existing campus building.

However, the two projects present distinct construction challenges. Choate focuses on connecting outdoor campus routes, while the other improves accessibility within an existing building. Despite these differences, both reflect a broader priority for educational

> "As a Wallingford resident, I've seen firsthand how much student and local traffic moves through this area every day. This bridge gives Choate a safer, more direct connection across Christian Street and helps separate pedestrian movement from roadway traffic. For KBE, it's especially rewarding to deliver a project that improves the campus experience while also making a positive contribution to the community we call home."
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> — Mike Kolakowski, president and ceo, KBE Building Corporation



Choate Rosemary Hall pedestrian bridge, ADA accessible ramp

institutions: creating more accessible, inclusive, and connected campus environments.

These projects show why accessibility improvements are most effective when viewed as part of the larger campus experience. A bridge can make a daily crossing safer; an elevator can open access to additional floors; and improved entrances and stairs can remove everyday barriers.

For KBE, the opportunity is to help institutions and their design partners turn those individual improvements into durable, well-integrated solutions. At Choate, a 66-foot bridge does more than cross Christian Street: it strengthens connections between two parts of campus, improves pedestrian safety, and provides a more equitable route for the people who use it.

Ultimately, thoughtful campus construction is about more than reaching a destination. It is about creating environments that are safer, more connected, more accessible, and welcoming by design.

Bridge view



Stairs



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