



September 1, 2023

To: Parents, Guardians, Teachers, Students, Building Occupants, and Employee Organizations

From: Marc Furtado, Director of Finance of the Attleboro School District

Re: AHERA Annual Notification

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970s contained some asbestos. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers. If the fibers are inhaled, they can lead to health problems such as cancer or asbestosis.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials. Suspected asbestos-containing building materials were located, sampled (or assumed) and rated according to condition and potential hazard. Every three years, the Attleboro Public School District has conducted a re-inspection to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. The Attleboro Public School District developed a plan, as required, which has been continually updated. The plan has several ongoing requirements: publish a notification on management plan and how to deal with it; notify short term or temporary workers on the locations of the ACBM; post warning labels in routine maintenance areas where asbestos was previously identified or assumed; follow set plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of the ACBM; and survey the condition of the materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

It is the intention of the Attleboro Public School District to comply with all federal and state regulations and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work.

A copy of the AHERA management plan for the Attleboro School District is available for review in the facilities office and the individual school offices during regular school hours. Any inquiries regarding asbestos containing materials in our schools should be directed to our AHERA Designated Person Jason Parenteau, who can be reached at the Facilities Office and at jason.parenteau@sodexo.com or (774) 551-8240 with any questions.