

Dallas School District Facilities

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Annual AHERA Notification Form

September 2019

Dear Parents, Teachers, Building Occupants, and Employee Organizations:

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 and 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, Dallas School District has conducted a reinspection 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. Most recently in preparation for several capital improvement projects planned, in September of 2016 the district had a more thorough inspection performed as opposed to the standard reinspection which was performed in October of 2015.

In addition to the standard reinspection, which found all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos containing or assumed to be asbestos-containing to be in good condition, the September 2016 inspection included testing of multiple areas which had not been tested previously and had been assumed as asbestos containing building materials. The results of that testing showed that many of the previously assumed asbestos containing materials were in fact negative for asbestos. Those materials which were previously assumed positive but tested negative for asbestos have therefore been removed from the management plan.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. Dallas School District developed a plan, as required, which has been continually updated. The plan has several ongoing requirements: publish a notification on management plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train its employees about asbestos and how to deal with it; notify short-term or temporary workers on the locations of the asbestos containing building materials; 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 asbestos containing building materials; and survey the condition of these materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

During the past year, asbestos containing building materials have been removed, encapsulated, or enclosed in the following building(s): --None

Bob Archer, Facilities Director

Maintenance Staff: Gordon Gentry • Gordon Southwick • Seth Arnesen • Kate Hall

It is the intention of Dallas School District to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan in the school district administrative office or administrative office of the school during regular business hours. Bob Archer, Facilities Director, is our designed asbestos program coordinator and all inquiries regarding the asbestos plan and asbestos-related issues should be directed to him at 503-623-5594.