

Hampshire County Board of Education

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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August 26, 2022

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY SCHOOLS

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 1970's contained some asbestos. Intact and undistributed 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 rate according to condition and potential hazard. Every three years, Hampshire County Schools 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. At the last re-inspection conducted on August 6, 2020, all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos containing (or assumed to be asbestos-containing) were inspected and found to be in good condition.

The law further required an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. Hampshire County Schools has developed a plan for each school, as required, and continually updated the plans as needed. The plan has several on-going 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-tern 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.

It is the intention of Hampshire County Schools 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. Mr. Steve Hott is our designated asbestos program coordinator and all inquiries regarding the asbestos plan and the asbestos-related issues should be directed to him at 304-822-3121.

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