

AHERA Yearly Notification Form

October 2017

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 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, 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, The Washington Borough School District has conducted a full re-inspection to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed asbestos building containing materials (ACBM) has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. At the last re-inspection, all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos containing (or assumed to be asbestos containing) were inspected and appropriate response actions recommended. Every six months, a visual surveillance is conducted to assess the conditions of ACBM in each of the district facilities. The surveillance report is added to each facility management plan as part of a permanent record.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. The Washington Borough 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 disturbances of asbestos containing building materials; and survey the condition of the materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

During the past year, no asbestos containing building materials were removed, encapsulated, or enclosed in the District facilities.

It is the intention of The Washington Borough 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 Administrative Office of each facility and the District Office during regular business hours.