




MATTHEW BARRETT, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

CYNTHIA A. LaROSA, Ph.D.
Assistant To Superintendent

ROSE E. EMMETT
Business Manager / Board Secretary

TO: Western Wayne Parents and Staff
FROM: Matthew Barrett, Ed.D., Superintendent 
DATE: January 28, 2021
RE: Asbestos Management Plan

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, the District conducts a re-inspection by a Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry licensed asbestos inspector 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. Periodic surveillance of all identified asbestos containing materials occurs every six months.

Western Wayne School District has developed a plan, as required, which is 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 location 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 the 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 administration office during regular business hours. Mr. Joe Dunda, Director of Buildings and Grounds, is our designed asbestos program coordinator, and all inquiries regarding the asbestos plan and asbestos-related issues can be directed to him.

As required, this notification is being sent to all parents and guardians of students, faculty, and staff of the District. Any questions about the project can be directed to Joseph Dunda at 570-647-6241.

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