



Public Schools of the Tarrytowns

July, 2026

Additional Construction, Health and Safety Q & A

1. Why is air quality being monitored during construction?

Monthly air quality checks help make sure construction is not affecting the areas of the building where students, teachers, and staff are learning and working. The inspections also confirm that construction barriers are properly sealed and doing their job.

2. What is being checked?

Special equipment will measure airborne vapors and fine particulate.

3. How is the monitoring done?

A trained technician will walk through occupied areas of the building with portable air-monitoring devices that take air readings every 60 seconds. After the initial building-wide inspection, future monthly monitoring will focus on areas along the construction barriers if results continue to be within acceptable levels.

4. What happens if a problem is found?

If monitoring identifies any concerns, they will be reported to the school district along with recommendations for any needed corrective actions. Most corrective action includes more extensive cleaning of the area. Construction barriers will also be inspected each month to make sure they remain secure and effective.

5. Why is the school not engaging in ongoing air monitoring during construction?

The State Education Department does not require ongoing air monitoring. We have an Indoor Air Quality Plan (IAQ) in place to ensure safety, as required. What is attributable to construction vs. what is attributable to regular school day activities are challenging to differentiate. The District is going above and beyond with the commitment to conduct monthly particulate testing.

6. How will the school know the results?

After each monthly inspection, the monitoring data will be reviewed and included in a report provided to the district. The report will summarize the findings and note any recommendations or follow-up actions, if needed.

7. Will radon testing be performed?

Yes, radon testing will be performed at Morse and Washington Irving over the summer.

8. What about asbestos?

If construction requires asbestos removal, that work is done when the building is empty. People are not permitted to return to the space until after the air has been tested and cleared.

9. What else is being done to help maintain clear air during construction?

There is High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filtration in areas of construction. The air is vented to the outside, and the filtered air is expelled.

10. How can I contact the District if I have concerns or questions about the health and safety of school buildings during construction?

There has been a special email set up for you to submit your questions, comments, or concerns about health and safety during construction. That email is healthandsafety@tufsd.org. If you do not have access to email, or if you would prefer to talk, please contact Brian Fried at 914.631.9401. All questions, concerns, or comments will be shared with the District's Health and Safety Committee.

11. Why has a District Health and Safety Committee been set up?

This is a requirement by the State Education Department, and it helps with collaborative problem-solving and transparency. Agenda topics include: student and staff safety, fiscal considerations, parking and other concerns during construction from each of the District's buildings.