



Scranton School District

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Superintendent

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Dear Parents, Students, Faculty, and Staff,

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, such as cancer and asbestosis.

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials. Every three (3) years, the Scranton School District is required to be re-inspected 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.

The law further requires asbestos management plans to be developed and implemented to monitor known or suspected ACBM. The plans have 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 (6) months to assure that they remain in good condition.

The following buildings contain no asbestos-containing building materials; therefore, no operations and maintenance programs or future inspections are required: Isaac Tripp Elementary, John F. Kennedy Elementary, John G. Whittier Elementary, and Scranton High School.

It is the intention of the Scranton 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 to work. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan in the administrative office of each building during regular business hours.

Sincerely,

Melissa McTiernan
Superintendent of Schools