



**Scranton School District
Northeast Scranton
Intermediate School**

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are the students not in the NESIS building?

The NESIS currently has a variety of building materials that contain asbestos. These materials exceed the EPA definition of “Asbestos Containing Material” (ACM) because they exceed 1%. There are also areas, in the 1906 wing of the building that are very close to this limit. A licensed inspector has assessed all of these materials and identified 19 areas that have asbestos and are significantly damaged and in need of immediate repair or stabilization. The abatement contractor has indicated that 80% of these areas can be addressed in about 2 weeks. The remaining areas will require more extensive repair and may be isolated. Additionally, Cocciardi has questions about ventilation systems. Some areas within the ducts of some systems contain ACM. These systems are being evaluated and should be assessed within this same two week period.

When can the students pick-up their personal belongings (e.g. backpacks, notebooks, coats, etc.)?

Due to the unknown presence of asbestos fibers within dust, samples are currently being collected of various surfaces. Based on these results, we will make a recommendation to the District as to the process for retrieval. US EPA has provided guidance on some similar situations, which will be followed. Results should be available by Friday, February 28th at which time the information will be communicated.

Are the other schools that students were relocated to less dangerous than Northeast Intermediate?

We are currently reviewing NESIS due to the displacement of students. Cocciardi is however conducting surveillance inspections at the other schools along with District personnel. As these inspections occur, any remediation actions required or previously recommended but not acted upon, will be addressed by the Administration. It is expected that these inspections for all 13 schools known to have ACM will be completed by March 2nd.

How do we know the schools where the former NESIS students were moved to are safer than NESIS?

NESIS students were moved to the South Scranton Intermediate School and West Scranton Intermediate School. Environmental consultants for the District (COCCIARDI ASSOCIATES) reviewed these sites on February 25, and confirmed that asbestos containing materials with the potential for significant damage or exposure were not present in either school. Additional emergent environmental

health issues were not noted. Air samples previously collected for asbestos were clear at both locations, which do not hold the potential for exposure of NESIS. Asbestos is present at South and requires ongoing abatement, management and inspection. At the West Scranton Intermediate School, there are very small quantities of ACM and these are in non-friable condition.

What is the status of Willard Elementary School?

The Willard Elementary School was reviewed by the environmental consultants on February 25. Asbestos is present and requires management, however; does not present the potential for significant exposure at this time (e.g. friable asbestos is not found within air handling systems). Air samples previously collected have documented clear levels of asbestos at this location. Consultants have recommended ongoing abatement actions, and 6 month inspections of the materials that are present to confirm condition.

Have the ventilation systems been examined at the cleared schools? Has the dust been tested? If not, how are we confident that they are safe for occupancy?

The environmental consultants have reviewed schools that have been prioritized by the district and previous professionals. (See Above) All abatement activities have been cleared according to EPA criteria. Significantly damaged asbestos has not been identified in ventilation systems or other areas of the schools examined presenting exposure concerns. The consultants are in the process of reviewing ALL schools for emergent environmental concerns, and a report of findings will be authored. The district is in the process of soliciting professional environmental consultation services for ongoing consultation.