

## 5.1 ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing and fire retardant 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 or asbestosis.

In 1986, the U.S. Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, (AHERA), which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials, (ACBM). Suspected ACBM are located, sampled and rated according to conditions and potential hazard.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place. The Dupree School District developed a plan in 1988 as required, which will be continually updated. The plan has several ongoing requirements, which includes this annual notification, plan availability for review and the status of all asbestos related activities.

Our school buildings here at Dupree School District are free of ACBM with the exception of the floor tile and mastic under the hardwood floor in the (new) gymnasium. This material is well covered and will not pose a health hazard unless disturbed. We will continue to monitor this area as required and ensure that no building materials used in future construction contain asbestos.

It is the intention of the Dupree 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 our school administrative office during regular business hours.

Mr. Brian Shanks is the designated asbestos program coordinator. All inquiries regarding the asbestos plan or asbestos related issues should be directed to him.