



Joey Cruz
Building & Grounds Supervisor

Dear Parents, Teachers, Building Occupants, and Employee Organizations:

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 due to damage or deterioration over time causing fibers to be released. 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 are located, sampled (or assumed) and rated according to condition and potential hazard. The law further required asbestos management plans to be in place by July 1989.

Mercer County Technical Schools (“MCTS”) developed a plan, as required, which has been continually updated. The most recent Tri-Annual re-inspection was performed on November 9, 2023. The plan has several ongoing requirements: publish a notification on management plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train 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.

It is the intention of MCTS 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.

A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available for review in the Business Office Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you have any questions regarding the Asbestos Management Plan or any other asbestos-related issues, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jose Cruz
Manager of Building and Grounds
Asbestos Program Coordinator.