

September 10, 2024

Dear Sky Valley Education Center Community,

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for our students, staff, and families, we are providing this update regarding the status of the buildings at Sky Valley Education Center (SVEC).

Since 2016, we have collaborated with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Snohomish County Health District to address concerns arising from the presence of certain PCB-containing building materials at SVEC. Initial work included removing PCB-containing ballasts in light fixtures from the campus and addressing other indoor air quality issues. Accessible PCB-containing caulk, which dates back to the original construction of the buildings, was removed; however, some inaccessible caulk remains around window units, door units, wall penetrations, adjacent support columns, and window infill systems. The remaining inaccessible caulk has been encapsulated beneath an epoxy coating, and we conduct annual wipe sampling to ensure that the PCBs beneath this epoxy do not present a risk.

This summer, under the approval and direction of the EPA, we conducted campus-wide maintenance and repair of the epoxy coatings. After completing a visual inspection of all epoxy coatings on the inside and outside of the buildings, we worked with qualified contractors and under the direction of the EPA, to repair those areas where the epoxy was worn, damaged, or deteriorated. Before repair work began, all work areas inside the buildings were sealed with plastic sheeting to ensure that any PCBs potentially disturbed during the work were contained.

After completing the work inside the buildings, we collected and analyzed air samples from the sealed areas. While some of these test results showed PCB levels below the EPA's established criteria, two areas in the Annex building had levels above the EPA's criteria. These areas will remain sealed and under negative pressure until test results are below the EPA's established criteria.

Out of an abundance of caution, we are temporarily closing the Annex building until the indoor air criteria are met. Classrooms displaced by the closure of the Annex will be temporarily relocated to other spaces throughout the SVEC campus. We will share additional status updates on the Annex building as information becomes available.

The safety of our students, families, and staff is our top priority and we are committed to transparency, collaboration, and proactive measures to ensure a healthy learning environment for all. As such, we will be placing signage around the school indicating that while they have been remediated, PCB-containing materials remain within the SVEC buildings.

If you have questions concerning the steps we are taking to ensure that these PCBs do not pose a risk to students, staff, and families, please reach out to me directly.

Shawn Woodward
Superintendent