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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Cherry Hill, NJ (July 30, 2025)** - Earlier this week, soil samples were collected from construction sites at Estelle V. Malberg Early Childhood Center and Joyce Kilmer Elementary School as part of routine testing under mandated construction guidelines. Cherry Hill Public Schools was informed that arsenic “spot readings” were in excess of acceptable levels.

The contamination of the soil was caused by the use and storage of fertilizers on the properties decades ago when the area was farmland, and before there were regulations on how to properly use and store these types of chemicals.

Cherry Hill Public Schools is working diligently with engineering experts to follow all of the Department of Environmental Protection’s protocols to ensure that the issue is remediated and that the buildings are safe for staff and students.

“Please be assured, this is a top priority,” said Dr. Kwame Morton, Sr., Superintendent. “I will share any further information with you as it becomes available. Please contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.”

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