

title: SVEC Environmental Safety Update Ahead of School Start

Dear Sky Valley Education Center Community,

As we eagerly look ahead to the official start of classes at Sky Valley Education Center (SVEC) next week, we want to provide you with an update on the environmental safety work that has been underway.

For those who are new to our community, it is important to know that in past years, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chemicals once commonly used in building materials, were identified in some areas of our campus. Since then, we have worked closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to test, remediate, and monitor the school to ensure it is safe for students and staff.

Last school year, we conducted a thorough recharacterization of SVEC. This process included collecting roughly 1,000 samples of various materials as well as evaluating air filters throughout the entire school. The goal was to ensure that no remaining PCB-containing materials had gone unidentified or unaddressed in previous rounds of remediation.

These results were compiled in a draft report and submitted to the EPA in January. While we are still waiting for formal comments from the EPA, we have asked for their permission to share the draft report publicly with our community. In the meantime, we want to share the key findings:

- Wipe test results showed no PCBs above the acceptable level for school occupancy.
- However, some additional PCB-containing materials were identified and required further remediation.

The work completed at SVEC this summer has been a direct response to those findings, along with regular maintenance of protective epoxy coatings.

Following each remediation step performed over the summer, we conduct testing to confirm the effectiveness of the work. If that testing indicates that PCBs are present above EPA-specified criteria, we keep the areas sealed while they are re-cleaned and re-tested. Ultimately, we do not reopen areas that have been remediated until the testing demonstrates that the EPA-specified criteria have been achieved.

Remediation work is now complete, and we are awaiting final test results to ensure that all efforts were successful. We expect results for classrooms 14, 16, 19, and 20 by Friday, and for classrooms 8, 10, 11, and the F prep room next week. If results are delayed, we have contingency plans in place to temporarily relocate these classrooms until clearance is received. As soon as re-occupancy is approved, we will remove equipment and clean up containments promptly, even if it requires weekend work.

Looking ahead, we anticipate receiving a comprehensive report in the coming months that will include all test results from this summer's work. Once available, the report will be posted on our district [website](#) for full community access.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and trust as we continue this important work. We know that safety is your top priority, as it is ours, and we remain committed to keeping you fully informed every step of the way.

Sincerely,

Shawn Woodward
Superintendent
Monroe School District