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Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)

2026-2027 Public Notification

Dear Concerned Party:

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), was enacted in 1986. It requires all public and private primary and secondary schools to inspect their buildings for asbestos containing materials on a regular basis. Further, AHERA mandates that schools:

- Perform an original inspection to determine whether asbestos-containing materials are present and then re-inspect asbestos-containing material in each school every three years
- Develop, maintain, and update an asbestos management plan and keep a copy at the school
- Provide yearly notification to parent, teacher, and employee organizations on the availability of the school's asbestos management plan and any asbestos-related actions taken or planned in the school
- Designate a contact person to ensure the responsibilities of the public school district or the non-profit school are properly implemented
- Perform periodic surveillance of known or suspected asbestos-containing building material
- Ensure that trained and licensed professionals perform inspections and take response actions
- Provide custodial staff with asbestos-awareness training

If asbestos is discovered within a building, but not removed, then the EPA requires that a proactive asbestos management program be put in place.

- Existing asbestos will pose little risk if it is well maintained under an operations and maintenance program.
- Improper asbestos removal can create dangerous situations; sometimes removal is not the best course of action to reduce asbestos exposure.

Notification:

- During the 2025-2026 school year, no interior asbestos projects were performed at SC BOCES.
- During the 2025-2026 school year there were no known instances where asbestos was an imminent hazard to the health or well-being of our students or staff.

Sullivan BOCES management plans are available for review through the Health & Safety Office. For further information, please contact Mr. Gary Bowers at 845-295-4110.

Mr. Bowers is the Assistant Health & Safety Coordinator for the Sullivan BOCES and is a licensed NYS Asbestos Inspector and Management Planner.

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