



Dr. Sylvia Zircher Ed.D.
Superintendent



SOUTH RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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September 25, 2026

Dear South River Families,

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding the situation at our Elementary and Middle Schools and the steps the district is taking moving forward.

The laboratory results from the environmental testing conducted at the Elementary and Middle Schools were received yesterday afternoon. These results were reviewed and discussed at last night's Board of Education meeting, including a presentation by Dr. Richard Lynch, the Certified Industrial Hygienist who conducted the testing and evaluated the findings.

The results presented indicate that the air quality in both the Elementary and Middle Schools is appropriate, with no mold detected in the air samples. Surface testing was also completed and identified mold in a limited number of areas. As explained during the presentation, these findings are not considered alarming and can occur in a setting such as a large school building. Based on the findings, a thorough cleaning of both schools began yesterday evening and will continue throughout the weekend and into the evening hours as necessary. A very large professional cleaning crew is in place to complete this work as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Dr. Lynch has been leading this effort and making the recommendation for the necessary levels of cleaning.

Provided there are no unexpected complications, including any impact from the impending storm, we are hopeful that the Elementary and Middle Schools will be able to reopen on Monday or Tuesday. We will continue to assess our progress throughout the weekend and will keep families informed so that you have as much advance notice as possible regarding the reopening of the schools.

We understand how important it is for families to have clear and complete information regarding the conditions in our schools. Dr. Lynch's presentation to the board and community can be accessed at the following link

📺 [September Public BOE Meeting 09.25.2026 \(minutes 5:30-56:50\)](#). Once the complete and final written report is available for public distribution, we will announce that it is posted on the website. This will provide families an opportunity to review the findings to better understand the testing process, results, and recommendations. The Superintendent's report at last night's Board of Education meeting also addresses the district's plan for evaluating and addressing conditions in our other school buildings and references a long-term, proactive approach designed to identify potential concerns early and minimize environmental risks throughout the district.

Our focus throughout this process has been, and will continue to be, the health and safety of our students and staff. We are committed not only to responding appropriately to the current situation, but also to using what we have learned to strengthen our practices districtwide. This includes continued consultation with qualified professionals, appropriate environmental monitoring and testing, and preventative measures intended to maintain safe and healthy learning environments in all of our schools.

We recognize that situations such as this can raise questions and concerns for families. We remain committed to communicating openly and sharing information as it becomes available. We appreciate your patience and partnership as we continue this work and take the necessary steps to support the safety and well-being of our entire school community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sylvia Zircher
Superintendent of Schools