September 2026

To Parent, Teacher & Employee Organizations:

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retarding capabilities. Most buildings constructed before the early 1980's contained some asbestos. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. However, if damaged, asbestos fibers can be released into the air causing potential health problems, such as cancer and asbestosis.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to follow a careful process of identifying, monitoring and maintaining known or assumed asbestos containing building materials to prevent hazardous conditions. Each educational facility shall reassess all known or assumed asbestos containing materials at least every six months (periodic surveillance) and re-inspect those facilities every three years. The law further requires an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) to be in place. The Rahway Board of Education (BOE) has developed and maintains a plan and related files as required. The plan requires: distribute an annual notification on the status of asbestos activities, educate and train potentially exposed employees about asbestos and how to safely deal with it, notify short-term or temporary workers on the locations of the asbestos containing building materials; post warning labels in utility areas with known or assumed asbestos, follow specific procedures to prevent the disturbance of asbestos containing materials.

The BOE has contracted with Garden State Environmental, Inc. (GSE) to act as our AHERA Asbestos Consultant to ensure that all required safety procedures are followed and properly documented. The BOE is in full compliance with these requirements. The most recent 3 year inspection took place in January 2026. Inspections are conducted every 3 years, with the next 3 year re-inspection scheduled for January 2029. The most recent six month periodic surveillance was performed in September 2026. Periodic surveillances are conducted every 6 months, with the next 6 month periodic surveillance scheduled for January 2027. Following each inspection, all findings are documented and reported to the Board of Education by an AHERA accredited Asbestos Building Inspector from GSE.

During this past year, asbestos abatements and asbestos repairs took place at Rahway High School. Abatement activities are performed in accordance with all applicable State and Federal rules, regulations, and guidelines. For more information, please contact Mr. Gilgio.

It is the intention of the BOE to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees enjoy a healthy and safe environment. You are welcome to review a copy of the AMP in the Buildings & Grounds Office, as well as in each school office during regular school hours.

Sincerely,

Tom Giglio, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds
Rahway Board of Education Representative