



WINCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

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BLAISE A. SALERNO
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

November 13, 2008

RE: ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW

Dear Parents, Teachers, Building Occupants, Employee Organizations,
and Board of Education Members:

I am required under the law to publish this notification annually and, therefore, I am now doing so in order to maintain school district compliance with state and federal regulations for schools.

The extensive use of asbestos in building materials occurred in the past because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually any building constructed prior to 1970 contained some asbestos materials. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers. Asbestos fibers can lead to serious health problems if inhaled.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The AHERA requires schools to inspect and identify any asbestos-containing building materials. Suspected asbestos-containing building materials were located, sampled (or assumed) and rated according to condition and potential hazard. Every three years, the Winchester Public School District has and continues to conduct re-inspections through Mystic Air Quality Consultants, a licensed, professional firm, to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) has changed and to make recommendations on managing and/or removing the ACBM. **The inspection performed on Friday, June 26, 2008, found all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos containing (or assumed asbestos containing) to be intact.**

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. In response to this law, the Winchester Public School District developed an asbestos management plan. The asbestos management plan update gives attention to several ongoing requirements. They are as follows:

1. Publish a Notification on Management Plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train its employees about asbestos and explain how to deal with it;
2. Notify short-term or temporary workers of the locations of the asbestos-containing building materials; post warning labels in routine maintenance areas where asbestos was previously identified or assumed; follow set plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos-containing building materials; and, survey the condition of these materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

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ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW (CONTINUED)

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Over the summer, we removed a very small amount of asbestos-containing building material at the Pearson Middle School when children and staff were not in the building. Whenever we are required to remove these materials, we take the utmost care and precaution when performing a removal of material, strictly following all required procedures.

During the 2009 year, we will be performing removal procedures when emergency repair situations occur and require it. We may also be required to perform additional remediation procedures at any point during a school construction project if there is ACBM present.

It is the intention of the Winchester Board of Education and Public School District to comply fully with ALL Federal and State Regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees learn and work in a healthy and safe environment. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan in the school district administrative offices located at 30 Elm Street, Winsted, Connecticut during normal business hours. Mr. Gregory Delaney, Maintenance Department, is currently designated the AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act) Contact and Program Coordinator. Please direct all inquiries regarding the asbestos management plan and asbestos-related issues to Mr. Delaney by calling (860) 485-2246. If you are not able to make contact with Mr. Delaney at this number, please feel free to leave a message for him by contacting the Winchester Board of Education Administration Offices by telephone (860) 379-0706, or by fax (860) 379-6521.

Sincerely,

Blaise A. Salerno
Superintendent of Schools