



Department of Facilities & Operations

Doug Kenwood, FMP
Director

2229 E. Buck Rd
Pennsburg, PA 18073
215-541-2444
dkenwood@upsd.org
www.upsd.org

AHERA NOTIFICATION

January 6, 2021

Dear Parents, Teachers, Building Occupants, and Employee Organizations:

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970s contained some asbestos. 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. If the fibers are inhaled, they can potentially lead to serious health problems.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials (ACBM). Suspected ACBM are located, sampled (or assumed), and rated according to condition and potential hazard. Every three years, **Upper Perkiomen School District** has conducted a reinspection to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed ACBM has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. The next reinspection is scheduled for October 2021.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. **Upper Perkiomen School District** developed a plan, as required, which has been continually updated. The plan has several ongoing requirements: publish a notification on management plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train its employees about asbestos and how to manage it; notify short-term or temporary workers on 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.

The following buildings contain no asbestos containing building materials; therefore, no operations and maintenance programs or future inspections are required: **Middle School, Marlborough Elementary, and the Education Center**. During 2019, asbestos containing building materials were removed, encapsulated, or enclosed in the following buildings: **4th and 5th Grade Center**. During the next year, we plan to conduct asbestos abatement (removal) activities at Upper Perkiomen High School and the 4th and 5th Grade Center. These abatement activities, planned for summer 2021, will target friable ACBM in poor condition.

It is the intention of **Upper Perkiomen School District** to comply with all federal and state regulations for managing asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees have a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work. Interested parties are welcome to review, during normal business hours, the AHERA inspection reports which are on file in the Asbestos Management Plan binder in each school's administrative office and in the Education Center. All inquiries regarding the Asbestos Management Plan and asbestos-related issues should be directed to the Upper Perkiomen School District AHERA Designated Person and Director of Facilities and Operations, Doug Kenwood. Mr. Kenwood can be reached at dkenwood@upsd.org or 215-541-2444.