

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Re: Gymnasium Ceiling at xxx School

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, passed during President Reagan's term, includes regulations referred to as AHERA Regulations. It calls for there to be a complete inspection of all buildings every three years and intermediate inspections every six months. It also defines the criteria and procedures for these inspections. xxx Schools is in total compliance with these regulations.

The coding of "1" in the asbestos report is a note made by the inspector to indicate that the material should be assumed to be asbestos-containing. This does not mean that the material does contain asbestos, and even if it did, there would be no reason for concern unless the asbestos were airborne.

Two perceived components of the acoustical ceiling in the xxx gymnasium were rated with a "1" during the initial AHERA inspection. They were the ceiling tile and what is referred to as "glue pucks." The inspector assumed that the ceiling tiles were held in place by glue pucks. However, the tiles are stapled to furring strips, so there are no glue pucks and therefore, no issue in that area. The acoustical panels have also been tested and were confirmed to be a cellulose material that is completely asbestos-free.

There is no question that the ceiling in the xxx gym is unsightly due to the fact that some of the tiles have been removed. We have not taken steps to replace that ceiling since we are planning to demolish the building and build a new, asbestos-free building.

At xxx Schools there is no higher priority than the health and safety of our students and staff.