

## **Asbestos Notification Statement for Tolland Middle and Tolland Intermediate Schools as well as the Birch Grove Primary School Portable Classrooms**

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires schools to ensure that workers and building occupants or their legal guardians are informed at least once each school year about inspections, response actions, and other activities related to asbestos in the school.

### **General Information on Asbestos**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that is mined from the earth, and added to certain products including building materials such as floor tiles, piping insulation, plaster, or other building substrates. It was widely used in building materials in the past for its superior insulation properties, fireproofing properties, and the ability it has to strengthen and add longevity to building substrates.

Inhalation of asbestos fibers has been shown to have serious health risks such as Asbestosis, Lung Cancer, and Mesothelioma. These diseases can be a consequence of Asbestos exposure, however, symptoms may take many years to develop.

It should be noted that building occupants are only at risk to asbestos exposure when building materials containing asbestos are disturbed or damaged. When materials that contain asbestos are intact, the asbestos fibers remain dormant in the substrate. Damage or disturbance to these materials can cause a release of asbestos fibers that can lead to exposure.

### **School Inspections and Asbestos Surveillance Inspections**

For this reason, the condition and locations of known or assumed asbestos containing materials is checked periodically to ensure appropriate response actions to

any damage or disturbance to building materials thought to contain asbestos.

Periodic surveillance of the schools is performed every 6 months to monitor the physical condition of any materials that are known or presumed to contain asbestos. Such inspections are performed by a Licensed EPA(Environmental Protection Agency) accredited inspector.

Currently, Tolland used Fuss & O'Neill as their Management Planner and inspection provider.

Periodic re-inspections of the schools are performed every 3 years to update the Asbestos School Management Plan concerning the status of Asbestos Containing

Materials (ACM's) in the schools. The Tolland Board also just recently received compliance from The Department of Public Health for submitting their Asbestos Management Plan for the Birch Grove Portable Classrooms.

### **Information about Asbestos Inspections, Management, Remediation, and Testing**

Copies of the 6 month Periodic Surveillance reports and 3 year re-inspection reports are available along with the school's Asbestos Management Plan (AMP), which is located in the Main Offices of Tolland Intermediate School, Tolland Middle School, Birch Grove Primary School Portables and the Board of Education Office.

A comprehensive list of the types and locations of building materials in the school that are known or presumed to contain asbestos is available for review.

Within the school's written Asbestos Management Plan you will find the following information; surveillance activities, known and presumed asbestos containing materials in the building, records of asbestos-related building material disturbances and response activities(construction and testing), any post-response documentation, and continuing education activities for Tolland Board of Education staff. The Plan is available for review by parents, legal guardians, teachers and other school personnel, representatives of EPA, representatives of the State, and the public.

The designated person for the Tolland school district's AHERA program is Facilities Director,

Peter Sztaba. Mr. Sztaba can be reached via email at [psztaba@tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:psztaba@tolland.k12.ct.us) or by phone at 860-870-6850, ext. 50902.