

ASBESTOS ISSUES

Asbestos is an issue we have been dealing with for many years. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (referred to as AHERA), was enacted by Congress. AHERA was enacted to determine the extent of and develop solutions for any problems schools may have with asbestos.

To give you some background, asbestos has been used as building material for many years. It is a naturally occurring mineral that is mined primarily in Canada, South Africa, and the USSR. Asbestos' properties made it an ideal building material for insulating, sound absorption, decorative plasters, fireproofing, and a variety of miscellaneous uses. There have been over 3,000 different products made using asbestos materials. The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) began action to limit uses of asbestos products in 1973 and most uses of asbestos products as building materials were banned in 1978.

Our facilities were inspected by a certified asbestos inspector in 1988, as required by AHERA. The inspector located, sampled, and rated the condition and hazard potential of all materials in our facilities suspected of containing asbestos. The inspection and laboratory analysis records were turned over to a professional engineer certified to develop asbestos management plans for each of the district's buildings.

Many of our buildings no longer have asbestos due to removal at time of remodeling. Asbestos management plans have been developed and implemented for all other buildings.

Our Maintenance Supervisor, Mr. Robert Drake, is our asbestos Program Manager and is trained and certified as required by AHERA. He conducts the surveillance inspections every six months and will be completing the three-year inspection in July of 2008. All inquiries should be directed to Mr. Drake at the Service Center located at 100 S Evans. His telephone number is 316 284-6500.

It is our intent to not only comply with, but exceed federal, state, and local regulations concerning asbestos. We plan on taking whatever steps are necessary to insure that your children and our employees have a healthy, safe environment in which to learn and work. In April, 1996, we received compliance inspection from the Environmental Protection Agency.