

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

TO: Parents and Staff

FROM: Andover Regional Board of Education

DATE: September 1, 2021-2022

SUBJECT: ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT (AHERA)

We are providing this notice in compliance with rules promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at 40 CFR 763, Subpart E pursuant to the provisions of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act ("AHERA"), PL 99-519. These rules require us to notify you each year of the measures we are taking to maintain the safe condition of the asbestos-containing materials ("ACMs") located in our schools. Asbestos is a generic term referring to a group of minerals characterized by long, extremely strong, chemically and thermally stable fibers. The properties of these fibers make asbestos both extremely desirable and extremely hazardous. Between 1900 and 1980, approximately 36 million metric tons of asbestos was used to manufacture over 3,000 materials including cement, vinyl, plaster, asphalt and cotton. Many of these ACMs were incorporated into buildings including school buildings. Unfortunately, we now know that long-term inhalation exposures to high levels of asbestos fibers can cause a number of serious health consequences. Prudent measures are needed to prevent those exposures and safeguard the health of building occupants. AHERA was enacted in 1986 to protect children attending our public and not-for-profit schools. It mandates a comprehensive program and strategy for safely managing the ACMs found in those schools. Some time ago, as required by AHERA, we completed an initial inspection of all school buildings to locate and characterize all ACMs. Using the inspection results, we then developed and implemented an Asbestos Hazard Management Plan that includes all of the AHERA required elements. The Plan includes training for maintenance and custodial workers on how to avoid disturbing ACMs and causing the release of airborne fibers. It also includes twice yearly walkthroughs and full reinspections every three years to identify any ACMs to which damage and deterioration could not be avoided and which may pose a risk of a fiber release and occupant exposure. We currently employ the services of Karl & Associates, Inc., our environmental and industrial hygiene consultants, to help us implement the Asbestos Hazard Management Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act Annual Notification Plan. Among other things, Karl & Associates, Inc. conducts the walkthroughs and reinspections. They completed our last three-year re-inspection in March 2019. The next one is now scheduled for April 2022. The last six-month walkthrough was completed in May 2021. The next is scheduled for November 2021. The results of all reinspections and walkthroughs, the recommendations made by Karl & Associates, Inc. to correct any potentially unsafe conditions, and the actions we have taken to implement those recommendations are all incorporated into the Asbestos Hazard Management Plan. The Plan is kept in the Board of Education offices and is available for your review any weekday during normal business hours.