

## READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Memo to: Parents and Staff  
From: Joe Huggins, Director of Facilities  
Reference: Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and the Children Families and Protection Act

This memo outlines procedures to notify parents and faculty under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and the Children Families and Protection Act. Please feel free to call me at 781-942-5492 if you have any question regarding this memo.

### **Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)**

On October 22, 1986, President Reagan signed into law an amendment to the Toxic Substance Control Act requiring schools to determine the presence of asbestos containing building materials in all school buildings. That amendment, called the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) required that all school buildings be visually inspected by accredited inspectors and that bulk samples of suspected materials be taken where the material was not assumed to be asbestos. It further required that management plans be created for each individual building and that the maintenance and custodial personnel receive training. The plan must be implemented and the training must be completed by July 9, 1989. This document is the Asbestos Management Plan which provides the means and the methods to effectively deal with asbestos containing building materials.

All phases of asbestos inspection and management planning are reported in this plan including: response action strategy, priorities, scheduling of abatement activities and coordination of personnel and evaluation of results. The plan has an additional function as a reporting document to that State. At the local level, the plan must be made available for general review by school district.

The AHERA management plans for each school building is complete. The Reading Public Schools have completed all three (3) year re-inspections.

All asbestos containing materials are kept in good condition and the school department has taken all necessary actions to insure the safety of all buildings occupants.

### **Children and Families Protection Act**

The Children and Families Protection Act requires that schools send Standard Written Notification home to parents and employees at least two working days before an outdoor pesticide application is to take place. A full notification includes the following three parts:

1. Consumer Information Bulletin
2. Department Notification Form
3. Chemical Fact Sheet

A new policy of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources permits schools the option of providing Standard Written Notification to parents via electronic means, such as the Blackboard Connect Ed system.

Reading Public Schools will use Blackboard Connect Ed to notify parents and employees of an outdoor pesticide application. The Blackboard Connect Ed call will be made at least two working days prior to the application and direct parents to the Reading Public Schools website <http://www.reading.k12.ma.us/> ; whereby interested parties may view copies of the Standard Written Notification. The website will post the three parts as outlined above. Should parents not have the capability to view the notification on the website, a hard copy will be made available by the Reading Public Schools upon request.

More information is available at [www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr)

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The Reading Public Schools have completed the 3rd year re-inspections and reports are available for review.

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