

Notification – Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA)

This purpose of this notification is to inform parents, patrons, and students about efforts that the Holdrege Public Schools have made in dealing with asbestos. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (referred to as AHERA), was enacted by Congress to determine the extent of and develop solutions for any problems schools may have with asbestos.

Asbestos has been used as a 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 insulation, sound absorption, decorative plasters, fireproofing, and a variety of miscellaneous uses. There have been over 3,600 different products made using asbestos materials. The Environmental Protection Agency began action to limit uses of asbestos products in 1973 and most uses of asbestos products as building materials were banned in 1978.

The Holdrege Public Schools facilities were inspected during 1988 by HWS Enterprises, certified asbestos inspectors, as required by AHERA. The inspectors located, sampled, and rated the condition and hazard potential of all material in the facilities suspected of containing asbestos. The inspection and laboratory analysis records were submitted to a professional certified to develop asbestos management plans.

An asbestos management plan was developed which includes this notification, education, and training of maintenance personnel, a set of plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of the asbestos containing materials (ACM), and plans for regular surveillance of the ACM.

A copy of the asbestos management plan is available for inspection at the HPS Central Office during regular office hours. Tom Rust, Buildings, Grounds & Transportation Supervisor, is the District's Asbestos Program Coordinator. All inquiries regarding the plan should be directed to him.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted an inspection in November 1992. The inspection report indicated that Holdrege Public Schools are in full compliance with AHERA regulations.

One of the requirements of AHERA is to conduct a three-year reinspection and prepared a report based on that information. Snyder Engineering of Columbus conducted three-year reinspections in 1990-91, 1993-94, 1996-97, and 1999-2000 school years, and in January 2002. Additional inspections were completed in 2005, and 2008. B2 Environmental, Inc. conducted inspections in 2011, 2014, and 2017. The current reports are available for inspection.

The Holdrege Public Schools intend to comply with or exceed federal, state, and local regulations in this area. Precautionary measures have been established to insure that the students and employees of the District have a healthy, safe environment in which to learn and work.