



2400 MASON EAGLES DR.  
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## **Mason Consolidated Schools Asbestos Program**

### **Letter to Staff:**

Mason Consolidated Schools has contracted DMD Environmental, Inc. to inspect all the buildings on campus every three (3) years to determine if there are asbestos containing materials that could present a risk to our students and staff. The three (3) year inspections along with a monthly inspection by staff, are being done in accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) to ensure our students and staff are safe. Our three (3) year inspections are posted on our website and can be viewed at your leisure. The following is an outline of asbestos and what it means to you.

### **Asbestos and Health:**

In attempting to come to terms with asbestos in buildings, several issues must be considered. In the past, the asbestos mineral was used in thousands of better constructed buildings as a fire retardant. Hundreds of thousands of tons were used in school buildings, hospitals, shopping centers, and homes within the past several decades. The purpose was to prevent fires from starting or a building from collapsing once a fire had started. Asbestos is commonly found in flooring, ceiling tile, acoustical soundproofing, structural reinforcing, decorative coatings, in pipe heating equipment insulations, roofing materials, carpet glue, and even concrete. The most concerning area of asbestos-bearing materials are the one's that can easily crumble under pressure. Such materials create a potential for asbestos fiber to be released.

Exposure to airborne asbestos (tiny particles which can be inhaled), especially in heavy doses, has been found to relate to several forms of cancer. Children and young adults who are exposed to asbestos are probably at greater risk than older people of developing certain asbestos-related diseases. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed guidelines for schools to identify asbestos within buildings and the institute has designed a system for determining relative risks and suggesting appropriate safety responses.



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### **What does all this mean?**

Asbestos found in schools can be dealt with safely and responsibly. The environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states:

“It is important to note that not all friable (easily pulverized) asbestos-containing materials need be removed from schools. Once the material has been identified, a program can be implemented to ensure that the material is maintained in good condition and that appropriate precautions are followed when the material is disturbed for any reason.”

School officials began the risk assessment process by having their buildings inspected and analyzing any suspected materials. Maintenance staff are also trained and informed on the locations and how to handle the asbestos on campus.

Based in part on the long-term past commitment of the school system to safeguarding public health, the parent/guardian, students, and staff can be assured that the appropriate responses will be implemented.