



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

To: Ben Franklin High School and Science Leadership Academy Staff and Families

We are sending this update as part of our commitment to keep you informed about the progress of construction at the Ben Franklin-SLA shared campus.

As previously shared, damaged duct insulation containing asbestos was discovered in the BF-SLA basement boiler room which is not accessible to students and teaching staff. Abatement in the boiler room is currently underway. Once completed, air quality testing by an independent, third-party consulting firm will be conducted to determine if that area is cleared for occupancy. We expect to have an update on this the week of Oct. 20th.

With the safety of students and staff as a top priority, 102 additional areas throughout the BF-SLA building were tested by an independent, third-party consulting firm to determine the presence of asbestos in the air. Testing focused on high-traffic areas for students and staff such as stairwells, elevator lobbies and hallways. All of these test results came back favorable, meaning these areas were safe for occupancy according to the Philadelphia Health Department's Asbestos Control Regulations. You can access these and all test results by visiting www.philasd.org and clicking on the *Ben Franklin-SLA Information & Updates* Quicklink.

During the last few weeks, as an added proactive measure, the same independent, third-party firm accelerated its scheduled six-month visual inspection of the entire building to identify any other areas where damage may have occurred. This visual inspection identified several areas with minor damage to known asbestos-containing materials; this minor damage poses minimal to no risk of asbestos exposure. The only area identified with major damage was in the concealed space above the gym locker rooms, which is inaccessible to students and non-custodial staff. All of these identified areas will be safely and thoroughly abated as part of the overall construction project. The Asbestos Inspection Report with these findings and a Daily Project Update are also available on the Ben Franklin-SLA webpage noted above.

Our commitment remains that the BF-SLA campus will not re-open until all major construction is complete, environmental testing has been conducted and the building has been approved for reoccupancy.

In the coming weeks, I'll be providing regular campus construction updates and sharing more about our District-wide plan to improve how we support safe and healthy schools. We are committed to providing all students with learning environments that inspire creativity and help prepare them for a bright future, and we will do it with safety as our top priority.

Danielle Floyd
Chief Operating Officer

Brian Joseph
Director of Environmental Safety