

Accelerating the Improvement of Environmental Conditions in Every School

The School District of Philadelphia is fully committed to supporting clean, safe and welcoming learning environments for every student and every staff member. To accelerate the improvement of environmental conditions in our schools, we are taking the following initial actions:

TO BETTER IDENTIFY CONCERNS, INCREASE OUR RESPONSIVENESS & ADDRESS KNOWN ASBESTOS ISSUES

1. Strengthening our bi-annual AHERA inspections of every school, inspectors will now immediately report any findings of possible imminent hazards to the Office of Environmental Management Services staff for follow-up within 24 hours and include hard-to-reach areas like attic spaces in their inspections.
Goal: implement with inspections beginning Nov. 2019
2. Having our facility area coordinators (FACs) partner with their principals to conduct an inspection of every school to identify any potential environmental safety concerns.
Goal: by Dec. 20, 2019
3. Launching a “see something-say something” effort to encourage reporting of environmental concerns to a new telephone hotline or dedicated email with a commitment to respond within 24 hours
Goal: by Jan. 2, 2020
4. Providing refresher training on asbestos risk identification and reporting to our facility area coordinators, building engineers and principals.
Goal: by Jan. 2, 2020
5. Expanding our resources to manage asbestos-related issues in schools with the goal of eliminating the current backlog of asbestos-related work orders by the start of the 2020-2021 school year
 - Hire additional District abatement staff, response coordinators, a compliance director, project managers and certified asbestos abatement companies and testing firms
Goal: new resources in place by Mar. 2020

TO MORE PROACTIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY MANAGE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

6. Retaining an environmental consultant to review all current construction projects and ensure any needed environmental work is included in the scope of work
Goal: consultant in place by Nov. 2019
7. Hiring a Program Management firm to provide comprehensive project management design, construction management and communications services for our new \$500-million capital program.
Goal: Firm in place by Feb. 2020
8. Forming an Environmental Advisory Board composed of union representatives, medical professionals, City Health Department officials, university and health system facility professionals, parents, teachers and students to review our efforts and identify areas for improvement
Goal: Board formed and functioning by Jan. 2020

BETTER EDUCATE & EMPOWER OUR STAFF & COMMUNITY ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY IN OUR SCHOOLS

9. Engaging internationally recognized asbestos expert Dr. Arthur Frank to help educate our staff and community with facts about asbestos.
Goal: engagement begins Nov. 2019
10. Developing and following a disciplined process to more proactively communicate with any school where design, construction and/or environmental initiatives are planned
Goal: by Dec. 2019
11. Enhancing the information available on our website concerning our construction and environmental efforts, including all school-based environmental test results, and providing user-friendly guides on how to read those reports/results.
Goal: by Jan. 2020
12. Proactively engaging school communities in the process of identifying and vetting relocation sites whenever an environmental issue requires school relocation.
Goal: ongoing