



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Environmental Safety Improvement Plan: February 2020 Update





Overview

- We continue to make steady progress.
- We're learning, growing and getting better along the way.
- Some work is proving more challenging and will take added time to sort through. *We will sort through it!*
- This is a large and complex issue with no quick fix.
- We need support Citywide to continue making progress.

Progress to Date

Inspections

- Visual inspections in every school -- **complete**
 - *30 imminent hazards identified in 21 schools - fixed*
- AHERA inspections -- **23 schools complete**
 - *34 imminent hazards identified in 10 schools - 33 fixed*
(1 remains safely closed off until repair in summer)

Training

- Asbestos identification & reporting training for Facility Area Coordinators, building engineers & principals - **complete**

Progress to Date

New Resources

- \$41 million approved in January for asbestos testing, abatement, project management & other resources.
 - *+ 2 new abatement firms*
 - *+ 3 new testing firms*
 - *+ new program management firm for \$500 million capital program (Planning session held Feb. 20)*

Improved Processes

- AHERA inspections now include hard-to-reach areas such as attics and crawl spaces
- Environmental scope added to new capital projects
 - *Wilson Middle School project, planned summer 2020 classroom modernizations, and Ethan Allen and Richmond renovations. More to come.*

Progress to Date

Asbestos Education

- Videos and FAQ from asbestos expert Dr. Arthur Frank available on Healthy Schools website, shared through social media and with schools.
 - *Panel session and Q&A at February Principals' meeting*

Better Communications

- Weekly meetings with Project Managers & key stakeholders on projects.
- Processes now in place to inform schools when hazards are identified, before repair work begins (whenever possible) and when environmental work concludes.

Some other improvement areas will take more time to address

- **Resources** - While we have hired more resources, they aren't enough. A new round of hiring is underway and we are evaluating bringing in an outside firm to further supplement District staff.
- **Formation of an Advisory Board** - this is temporarily on hold as we determine the right structure to maximize its impact. We have been receiving input from the community and are currently evaluating options.
- **New Hotline** - this is temporarily on hold as we determine if it's best to simply highlight systems already in place vs. creating something new.
- **Website Information** - speed of posting easy-to-understand test results needs improvement. Guide for test results needs to be developed.

An Update on Relocation Sites

- Progress is being made to identify and vet relocation sites for whenever a temporary school relocation is needed.

Criteria:

1. **Space** - must accommodate 400+ students or a minimum 20 classrooms
2. **Location** - accessible to the NE, SE, NW or SW sections of the city
3. **Student-safe space** - District-only occupancy or separate entry/exit
4. **Accessibility** - by public transit and school bus
5. **Building conditions** - environmentally safe
6. **Tech supports** - can support needed instructional technology
7. **Cost** - must be cost-effective to outfit the space as a relocation space
8. **Availability** - can be prepared for use by September 2020

Know of a space that fits this criteria? Email us by March 5 at
capitalprograms@philasd.org

Relocation Sites - Next Steps

- **By March 15:** Create list of potential relocation sites - including sites suggested by the public
- **By March 31:** Share list of potential relocation sites including areas/schools to be served by sites, costs to outfit sites, and any specific needs/concerns related to location/size/access
- **April-May:** Work with the school leaders and communities of all relocation sites to determine needs, investments, concerns
- **April-August:** Perform repairs, install technology and furniture, and prepare all relocation sites to be available by Sept 1, 2020



Thank you for your continued support!