

# **BROCKWAY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

40 NORTH STREET  
BROCKWAY, PENNSYLVANIA 15824  
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JEFFREY T. VIZZA  
*Superintendent*

LAURIE L. PICCIRILLO  
*Business Manager*

August 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian:

By law we are mandated to provide an update on the status of asbestos in the school district.

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970s contained some asbestos. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers. If the fibers are inhaled, they can lead to health problems, such as cancer and asbestosis.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos-containing building materials. Suspected asbestos-containing building materials were located, sampled (or assumed) and rated according to condition and potential hazard. Every three years, the Brockway Area School District has conducted a re-inspection to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. At the last re-inspection conducted in 2021, all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos-containing (or assumed to be asbestos-containing) were inspected and found to be in good condition.

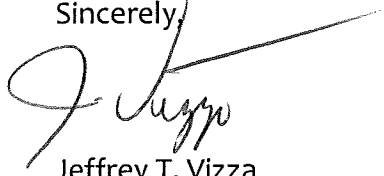
The law further required an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. The Brockway Area School District developed a plan, as required, which has been continually updated. The plan has several ongoing requirements: publish a notification on management plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train its employees about asbestos and how to deal with it; post short-warning labels in routine maintenance areas where asbestos was previously identified or assumed; follow set plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos-containing building materials; and survey the condition of these materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

During the Summer & Fall of 2022, heating boiler #2 was removed, insulation, walls & mortar were tested. There were no asbestos related issues. There are no asbestos related removal activities scheduled at this time for any school buildings in the upcoming year.

It is the intention of the Brockway Area School District to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan in the school district office during regular business hours which are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Jeff Rakvin, maintenance supervisor, is our designated asbestos program coordinator, and all inquiries regarding the asbestos plan and asbestos-related issue should be directed to him at the Maintenance Department of the Brockway Area School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Vizza", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeffrey T. Vizza  
Superintendent of Schools

cc:      School Board Members  
         Jeff Rakvin, Maintenance Supervisor  
         Matt Baxter, Asst. Maintenance Supervisor  
         Mark Dippold, High School Principal  
         Brian Mulhollan, High School/Elementary Principal  
         Shannon Yeager, High School Principal  
         Candace Patricelli, Elementary Principal  
         Ben Donlin, Elementary/High School Principal