

ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 1986 (AHERA)

AHERA requires Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to identify asbestos containing materials (ACM) in their school building and to take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers. All areas that tested positive have been addressed in accordance with AHERA requirements.

An Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Program has been designed to prevent asbestos fiber release through proper cleaning, maintenance, renovation and general building operations. The O&M will remain in effect until all ACM is removed from the building.

The building will be inspected every six (6) months by qualified school district personnel to determine any changes in the condition of identified ACM. Additionally, the school building will be inspected every three (3) years by an accredited inspector following the same basis criteria as the original inspection. The date of the last three-year inspection was September of 2013. The next inspection is scheduled for 2016.

An Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) was prepared by an accredited asbestos management plan preparer as required by AHERA. The AMP for Horace W. Porter School is available through the Office of the Superintendent. The AMP is available for review to representatives of the EPA and State, the public, including Parents/Guardians, teachers and other school personnel and their representatives within five (5) working days after receiving a written request for review.

The LEA may charge a reasonable price to make copies of AMPs.

NOTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE OBLIGATION UNDER CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE (CGS) 10-184 & 10-198A

The Columbia Public School System is required by state law to provide you with written notice of your obligation to ensure your child's attendance at school when it is in session. Public Act 98-243 contains a provision which lowers the compulsory education age from age seven to age five while continuing to permit Parents/Guardians to withhold their child from a formal education until age seven. This change should not be construed as an opt-out for family vacations not coinciding with the school vacation schedule. Please take the time to review the 2012-2013 Student Handbook section related to student attendance.

CGS 10-184 & CGS 10-198A require that Horace W. Porter School obtain telephone contact numbers or other means by which you can be contacted during the school day. Parents/guardians will be contacted by telephone each time their child is absent from school without prior notice. To be certain that you are promptly contacted please complete and return the Student Information Sheet found in the First Day of School Packet.

As a point of information, to give prior notice of your child's absence, please call (860) 228-9493 x116 before the start of school on the day you child will be absent.