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# **Portage Area School District**

## ***“Home of the Mustangs”***

Dear Parent or Guardian:

By law we are mandated to provide an annual 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 1970's contained some asbestos-containing building materials. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk.

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, Portage 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 ACBM. At the last re-inspection, conducted November 2014, all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos-containing were inspected and their condition had not changed and did not warrant any further activities at this time.

The law further required an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. Portage Area School District developed a plan, as required, which has been continually updated. This plan is available for public viewing in the High School Office. 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-containing building materials; and survey the condition of these materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

There are no asbestos related projects scheduled for any school buildings in the upcoming year.

It is the intention of the Portage Area School District to continue to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and 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 office during regular business hours.

Very truly yours,

Eric A. Zelanko, Superintendent of Schools

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