



CITY OF MELROSE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Administration—Engineering—Water—Sewer—Facilities
Parks—Forestry—Highway—Sanitation—Cemetery—Fleet

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To: Principals, Faculty, and Parents
From: Elena Proakis Ellis, Director of Public Works
Date: August 22, 2025
Re: Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)

On October 22nd, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed into law an amendment to the Toxic Substance Control Act requiring schools to determine the presence of asbestos containing building materials in all school buildings. That amendment, called the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) required that all school buildings be visually inspected by accredited inspectors and that bulk samples of suspected materials are taken where the material was not assumed to be asbestos. It further required that management plans be created for each individual building and that the maintenance and custodial personnel receive training. The plan must be implemented, and the training completed by July 9, 1989. This document is entitled the Asbestos Management Plan and provides the means and methods to effectively deal with asbestos containing building materials.

All phases of asbestos inspection and management planning are reported in the Asbestos Management Plan including response action strategy, priorities, scheduling of abatement activities, coordination of personnel, and evaluation of results. The plan has an additional function as a reporting document to that State. At the local level, the plan must be made available for general review by the school district.

The Melrose Public Schools completed a 2023 Re-Inspections and 12-month follow-up surveillance, and these reports are available for review. Abatement actions were made where needed, and each summer the City proactively removes asbestos. In summer 2025, abatement activities were completed at select locations in the Franklin Early Childhood Center and the Horace Mann Elementary School.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

