

# Cayuga Elementary School: Asbestos Hazard Report

The Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health has partnered with the Healthy Schools Initiative to analyze and report on public information regarding asbestos conditions in schools made available on the School District of Philadelphia's website.

This report is meant to communicate to parents, teachers, and staff the exposure risk at their school and help prioritize the removal of asbestos in high-risk exposure locations.

Our analysis is based on publicly available reports. We have not conducted inspections or verified the reports.

## Key Findings:

- 50 teacher / student occupied spaces have **asbestos containing material (ACM)**
- 7 spaces contained friable ACM
- ★ 0 spaces had damaged ACM

## Our Recommendations:

- The School District is required to regularly monitor the condition of their ACM by the EPA. As of the most recent report from May 2024, there is no damaged ACM in the school. We recommend frequent monitoring of all ACM, especially asbestos containing paint which if damaged is considered friable as listed in Table 1 of this report. Teachers, staff, and parents should report any damaged ACM to their principal immediately.



## What is asbestos?

**Asbestos is a fibrous material that is resistant to heat, water, and corrosion.**

See this link for a comprehensive list: <https://prcceh.upenn.edu/asbestos>

## Asbestos was used in materials in schools, including:

- Ceiling Tiles
- Floor Tiles
- Pipe Insulation
- Cement
- Paint and Caulk
- Soundproofing
- Fireproofing
- Plaster Materials

## What are the health effects of asbestos?

No immediate health impacts are expected from asbestos exposure in schools. However, breathing asbestos fibers in schools may increase the risk of developing cancer many years from now.

Children are very active, breathing more air while running and playing. Children take more breaths per minute than adults and are lower to the ground where asbestos fibers may settle. This puts them at an increased risk for asbestos exposure.

## How are damaged asbestos containing materials managed?

Asbestos can be removed. Sometimes damaged materials are managed in place by patching, encapsulating (using a specially formulated paint-like coating) or building an enclosure around damaged and/or accessible materials. All of these are forms of abatement.

The Environmental Protection Agency requires all remaining asbestos containing material to be inspected by the school district every six months. This is documented in an Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act Report (AHERA Report).

## Are all asbestos containing materials of equal risk?

Some asbestos containing materials like ceiling and floor tiles have asbestos fibers imbedded in other materials. As long as they are not broken or damaged the asbestos fibers are not released into the air.

Some asbestos containing materials like insulation on pipe remains fibrous and can easily be released in the air when damaged.

### Important Terms

*Get to know these terms to make the most out of this report.*

**Damaged Asbestos Containing Material (ACM)** can release asbestos fibers into the air.

**Friable Materials** can be reduced to a powder by applying hand pressure. **DO NOT TOUCH!**

**Non-Friable materials** are not easily damaged.

**Significantly damaged materials** are more than 10% damaged.

**Abated ACM** means repaired, removed, or reduced risk of exposure.

## Detailed Review for Cayuga Elementary School

This school has 55 spaces with asbestos containing materials. 50 of them are in teacher / student occupied spaces. The School District last inspected ACM in March 2024 and published the AHERA report in June 2024. No damaged ACM were reported on this AHERA report.



We recommend that the school district continue to frequently monitor friable asbestos containing materials for damage. The only friable material found in the most recent report was asbestos paint in several areas throughout the school (see table 1).

### Information Reviewed to Make this Report:

The 2024/25 AHERA report from the School District of Philadelphia was reviewed.

To see the most current information, scan these QR Codes. After scanning, search for your school.

### School Districts of Philadelphia Asbestos Reports:



AHERA Reports are documents generated from EPA required asbestos inspections



Report what you see!

Parents and teachers should report hazardous conditions in schools on the Healthy Schools app.

Scan here to download the app:



### Disclaimer:

This report analyzes custodial and mechanical spaces like boiler rooms **only** when ACM is significantly damaged (damage > 10%).

## Questions?

Find more resources on our website!

[prcceb.upenn.edu/asbestos](http://prcceb.upenn.edu/asbestos)

- Photo gallery of different types of damaged asbestos containing materials
- Guide to how we classify materials in schools
- Our analysis and reporting methodology
- What we do with the information in this report



Email us at [prcceb@penmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:prcceb@penmedicine.upenn.edu) or call 215-573-9076

Table 1: Friable Asbestos Containing Materials Identified

**NOTE: Friable materials can be reduced to a powder by applying hand pressure. *Do not touch it!* Damaged and significantly damaged friable materials readily release harmful asbestos fibers into the air.**

Location	Friable Asbestos Containing Material	Reported as Damaged or Significantly Damaged? (Blank = No)
Stairwell 3 across from Teacher's Lounge 116	Paint associated with Ceiling, Metal	
Cafeteria	Paint associated with Concrete Beam	
Stairwell 3 across from Mechanical Room 009A	Paint associated with Ceiling, Metal	
Stairwell 2	Paint associated with Ceiling, Metal	
Hallway from Stairwell 1 to Stairwell 2	Paint associated with Ceiling, Concrete	
Restroom in Teacher's Lounge next to Classroom 305	Paint associated with Ceiling, Concrete	
Pump Room 001	Paint associated with Wall, Concrete	
Vestibule between Cafeteria and Elevator	Paint associated with Wall, Concrete	

Table 2: Non-Friable Asbestos Containing Materials Identified

**NOTE: Significantly Damaged non-friable materials (damage ≥ 10% of the material) can release harmful asbestos fibers into the air.**

Location	Material Name	Reported as Damaged or Significantly Damaged?
Classroom 117	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom 117 Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 117 Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 118	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 118	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 118	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 118	Glue Dots	
Classroom 119	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 119	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 119	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 119 Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 120	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 120	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 120	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Climate Coordinator Office 121	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Climate Coordinator Office 121	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Main Hallway	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Stairwell 4 across from Office 121	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 214	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 214	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
IMC/Library 215	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
IMC/Library 215	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
IMC/Library Office 215A	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 216	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 216	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 216	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Computer Lab 217	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Computer Lab 217	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Office 219 inside Computer Lab 217	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
ESOL Office 220	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Storage Room 221 inside Computer Lab 217	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Elevator between Element 1 and Element 2	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Main Hallway	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Cafeteria	Glazing associated with Window Component	
Classroom 101	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 101	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 101	Mastic associated with Cove Base	

# Cayuga Elementary School: Asbestos Hazard Report

Classroom 102	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 102	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 103	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 103	Mastic associated with Floor Tile	
Classroom 104	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 104	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 104	Mastic associated with Floor Tile	
Classroom 105	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 105	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 105	Mastic associated with Floor Tile	
Classroom 108 across from Main Office	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 108 across from Main Office	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Main Office 106	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Office 106A inside Main Office 106	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Principal's Office 107	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Principal's Office Restroom	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Closet in Principal's Office 107	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Electrical Room 109 inside Counselor's Office 110	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Counselor's Office 110	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Hallway from Stairwell 1 to Stairwell 2	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Meeting Room 200	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 201	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 201	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 202	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 202	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 203	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 203	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 204	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 204	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 205	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 205	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 205	Mastic	
Classroom 206	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 206	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Nurse's Office 207	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Nurse's Office 207	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Nurse's Office Restroom	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Electrical Room 209 inside Speech Therapy Room	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Hallway from Stairwell 1 to Stairwell 2	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Hallway from Stairwell 1 to Stairwell 2	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Speech Therapy Room across from Nurse's Office 207	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 301	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 302	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 303	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	

# Cayuga Elementary School: Asbestos Hazard Report

Classroom 304	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 305	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 306	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Hallway from Stairwell 1 to Stairwell 2	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Storage Room next to Classroom 306	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Restroom in Teacher's Lounge next to Classroom 305	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Auditorium	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Mezzanine Level Hallway	Mortar associated with Wall, CMU	
Office M01 in Stairwell 1 (above Auditorium)	Mortar associated with Wall, CMU	
Office M01 in Stairwell 1 (above Auditorium)	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Office M01 in Stairwell 1 (above Auditorium)	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Building Engineer's Office	Mortar associated with Wall, CMU	
Front Entrance/Visitor's Entrance Vestibule	Mortar associated with Wall, CMU	