

Julia W Howe 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:

- 63 teacher / student occupied spaces have asbestos containing material (ACM)
- 8 spaces had damaged ACM
- 44 spaces contained friable ACM
- **All damaged** materials were scheduled to be abated

Our Recommendations:

- The School District scheduled the abatement for all the eight damaged ACM during their latest inspection in Feb 2026.
- The School District is required to regularly monitor the condition of its ACM by the EPA. We recommend the complete removal of friable ACM instead of encapsulation for materials that have been repeatedly damaged, such as the pipe insulation in Classrooms 14 and 10 (See Table 1).



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 Julia W. Howe School

This school has 67 spaces with asbestos containing materials. 63 of them are in teacher / student occupied spaces. The School District last inspected ACM in February 2026 and published the AHERA report in February 2026. Since then, the School District scheduled the abatement of all the 8 damaged asbestos containing materials identified during this inspection.



We recommend that the School District completely remove friable ACM that have been repeatedly damaged in the past, such as the pipe insulation in Classroom 14 and Classroom 10, as listed in Table 1.

Abatement that has been scheduled in 2026 has been confirmed as completed through air-management verification reports on the School District website. A list of all the ACM in the school and their damage/abatement schedule can be found in the tables at the end of this report.

Information Reviewed to Make this Report:

The 2025/26 AHERA report from the School District of Philadelphia, and asbestos abatement notifications from the Air Management Services Online Portal.

Not included in this report are planned repairs to damaged asbestos materials that have not been uploaded to the Air Management Services website or any updated after August 6, 2026. 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

Office of the Controller Asbestos Project:



Asbestos abatement notification forms



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!

prcceh.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 prcceh@pennteam.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	Material Name	Reported as Damaged or Significantly Damaged? (Blank = No)	Abatement scheduled since the inspection? (Blank = No)
Classroom 1	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 1	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 1	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 2	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 2	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 2	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 3	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 3	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 3	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 4	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 4	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 4	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Counselor's Office	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Counselor's Office	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Counselor's Office	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
School Psychologist	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
School Psychologist	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Nurse's Office	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Nurse's Office	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Nurse's Office	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 6	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 6	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 6	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Main Office	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Main Office	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		

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Main Office	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Principal's Office	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Principal's Office	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Principal's Office	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Storage Closet next to Bathroom in Classroom 7 through Space 107C1	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 7	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 7	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Hallway from Classroom 1 to First Floor Main Hallway	Electrical Wire Wrap associated with Electrical Panel		
Hallway from Classroom 1 to First Floor Main Hallway	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Hallway from Classroom 1 to First Floor Main Hallway	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
First Floor Main Hallway	Electrical Wire Wrap associated with Electrical Panel		
First Floor Main Hallway	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
First Floor Main Hallway	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
First Floor Main Hallway	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Entry Vestibule into Stairwell S17 at Grange Avenue	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Entry Vestibule into Stairwell S17 at Grange Avenue	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Entry Vestibule into Stairwell S18 at Grange Avenue	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Entry Vestibule into Stairwell S18 at Grange Avenue	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 14	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 14	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch (above ceiling tiles)	Damaged.	Encapsulated in Mar 2026.
Classroom 14	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch	Damaged. Previously reported damaged in Feb 2025 and in Jun 2023.	Encapsulated in Feb 2026. Previously encapsulated in Apr 2025 and Dec 2023.
Classroom 15	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 15	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch (above ceiling tiles)	Damaged.	Encapsulated in Feb 2026.
Classroom 15	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 9	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 9	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 9	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 8	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 8	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 8	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 10	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 10	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch (above ceiling tiles)	Damaged. Previously reported damaged in Aug 2024 and in Jun 2023.	Encapsulated in Feb 2026. Previously encapsulated in Jan 2025 and Dec 2023.
Classroom 10	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 11	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 11	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 11	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 12	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 12	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 12	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Classroom 13	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom 13	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch (above ceiling tiles)	Damaged.	Encapsulated in Feb 2026.

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Classroom 13	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Women's Staff Restroom	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Teacher's Lounge	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Teacher's Lounge	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Teacher's Lounge	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Server Room within Teacher's Lounge	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Server Room within Teacher's Lounge	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Server Room within Teacher's Lounge	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Teacher's Lounge Kitchen	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Teacher's Lounge Kitchen	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch (above ceiling tiles)		
Teacher's Lounge Kitchen	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch	Damaged. Previously reported damaged in Feb 2025 and Jun 2023.	All material removed in Mar 2026. Previously encapsulated in Apr 2025 and in Dec 2023.
Hallway from Classroom 8 to Second Floor Main Hallway	Electrical Wire Wrap associated with Electrical Panel		
Hallway from Classroom 8 to Second Floor Main Hallway	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Hallway from Classroom 8 to Second Floor Main Hallway	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Hallway from Classroom 15 to Second Floor Main Hallway	Electrical Wire Wrap associated with Electrical Panel		
Second Floor Main Hallway	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Second Floor Main Hallway	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Second Floor Main Hallway	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Second Floor Stairwell Grange Avenue	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Second Floor Stairwell Grange Avenue	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Custodial Closet off of stairwell S28 landing	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Custodial Closet off of stairwell S28 landing	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Hallway from Classrooms 23 and 24 to Third Floor Main Hallway	Electrical Wire Wrap associated with Electrical Panel		
Hallway from Classroom 16 to Third Floor Main Hallway	Electrical Wire Wrap associated with Electrical Panel		
Third Floor Stairwell opposite Grange Avenue	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Third Floor Stairwell opposite Grange Avenue	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Classroom B-1	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Middle Area of Fan No. 1 accessed from Basement Custodial/Electrical Room	Paint associated with Air Wash Chamber		
Boiler Room	Paint associated with Window Frame		
Boiler Room	Boiler Breeching		
Gas Booster Room	Boiler Breeching		
Store Room #1	Pipe Insulation >6 inches		
Store Room #1	Pipe Fitting Insulation		

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Store Room #1	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Basement Main Hallway	Pipe Insulation >6 inches		
Basement Main Hallway	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Basement Main Hallway	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Hallway from Classroom B-1 to Basement Main Hallway	Electrical Wire Wrap associated with Electrical Panel		
Hallway from Classroom B-1 to Basement Main Hallway	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Hallway from Classroom B-1 to Basement Main Hallway	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Hallway from Stairwell adjacent to the Boy's Restroom to Basement Main Hallway	Electrical Wire Wrap associated with Electrical Panel		
Hallway from Stairwell adjacent to the Boy's Restroom to Basement Main Hallway	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Hallway from Stairwell adjacent to the Boy's Restroom to Basement Main Hallway	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Stairwell adjacent to the Boy's Restroom	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Stairwell adjacent to the Boy's Restroom	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Stairwell adjacent to Classroom B-1	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Stairwell adjacent to Classroom B-1	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Cafeteria	Electrical Wire Wrap associated with Electrical Panel		

Table 2: Non-Friable Asbestos Containing Materials Identified

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

Location	Material Name	Reported as Damaged or Significantly Damaged? (Blank = No)	Abatement scheduled since the inspection? (Blank = No)
Classroom 1	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 1 Restroom	Thinset associated with Floor, Ceramic Tile		
Gender Neutral Bathroom adjacent to Classroom 1 in Hallway H17	Thinset associated with Wall, Ceramic Tile		
Gender Neutral Bathroom adjacent to Classroom 1 in Hallway H17	Thinset associated with Floor, Ceramic Tile		
Gender Neutral Bathroom adjacent to Classroom 1 in Hallway H17	Fire Doors		
Classroom 2	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 3	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 4	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Common Area for Conselor, Nurse, Special Education and Speech Offices	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		

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Common Area for Counselor, Nurse, Special Education and Speech Offices	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"	Damaged.	Damaged material removed in in Mar 2026.
Counselor's Office	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Counselor's Office	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Speech Office	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Speech Office	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Speech Office	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"	Damaged.	Damaged material removed in Mar 2026.
Nurse's Office	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Nurse's Office	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Classroom 6	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 7 Small Storage Closet By Entrance	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Classroom 7 Small Storage Closet By Entrance	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Classroom 7 Small Storage Closet By Entrance	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Classroom 7 Restroom	Thinset associated with Wall, Ceramic Tile		
Classroom 7 Restroom	Thinset associated with Floor, Ceramic Tile		
Entry Room between Classroom 7 and Bathroom in Classroom 7	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Entry Room between Classroom 7 and Bathroom in Classroom 7	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Entry Room between Classroom 7 and Bathroom in Classroom 7	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Classroom 7	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Classroom 7	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Classroom 7	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 7	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Hallway from Classroom 7 to the Cafeteria	Fire Doors		
Stairwell next to Classroom 2	Fire Doors		
Stairwell next to Main Office	Fire Doors		
First Floor Stairwell Grange Avenue	Fire Doors		
First Floor Stairwell opposite Grange Avenue	Fire Doors		
Main Entrance Stairwell	Fire Doors		
Classroom 14	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 15	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 9	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 8	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 10	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 11	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 12	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 13	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Women's Staff Restroom	Thinset associated with Floor, Ceramic Tile		
Men's Staff Restroom	Thinset associated with Floor, Ceramic Tile		
Teacher's Lounge	Fire Doors		
Second Floor Stairwell next to Classroom 9	Fire Doors		
Second Floor Hallway to Stairwell, between Classroom 9 and S21	Fire Doors		

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Classroom 16	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Men's Staff Restroom	Thinset associated with Floor, Ceramic Tile		
Classroom 17	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 18	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 20	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 21	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 22	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 24	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Women's Staff Restroom	Thinset associated with Floor, Ceramic Tile		
Third Floor Fire Tower Hall adjacent to Classroom 17 to Stairwell	Fire Doors		
Third Floor Fire Tower adjacent to Classroom 17	Fire Doors		
Classroom B-1	Thinset associated with Floor, Ceramic Tile		
Classroom B-1	Glue Dots associated with Ceiling Tile 1' x 1'		
Basement Girl's Restroom	Thinset associated with Floor, Ceramic Tile		
Gas Booster Room	Fire Doors		
Gas Booster Room	Fire Doors		
Basement Boy's Restroom	Thinset associated with Floor, Ceramic Tile		
Basement Main Hallway	Fire Doors		
Stairwell adjacent to the Boy's Restroom	Fire Doors		
Stairwell adjacent to Classroom B-1	Fire Doors		
Cafeteria	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Cafeteria	Fire Doors		