



Under the US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) [Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act \(AHERA\)](#), all nonprofit schools (K-12), both public and private, are required to **identify and inspect** any asbestos in their facility, **develop a comprehensive abatement management plan**, and **provide training** to school maintenance and custodial workers. Asbestos has been found to increase the risk of lung diseases such as mesothelioma and asbestosis.

Where is asbestos found?

- Older buildings, including schools built before 1980
- Used as insulation in building materials, floor, and ceiling tiles
- Spray-applied fireproofing

When is asbestos a concern?

- When friable (can reduce to powder by hand pressure)
- When damaged and released into the air by normal school activity or maintenance
- If asbestos-containing material are properly managed, maintained, not disturbed, they generally do not pose a health risk.

Check Your AHERA Health!



Ensure that you have a current, compliant Asbestos Management Plan (AMP). This is key to a successful asbestos program. Areas in the school identified by the AMP are subjected to both periodic surveillance and reinspection.

Download NJDOH's AMP forms: nj.gov/health/ceohs/asbestos/asbestos-management-schools



Develop and implement an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan. The O&M Plan includes training, cleaning, ensuring good work practices, and the maintenance of all Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) in the building.

USEPA recommends that an O&M program include work practices to:

- Maintain ACM in good condition;
- Ensure proper cleanup of asbestos fibers previously released;
- Prevent further releases of asbestos fibers; and
- Monitor the condition of ACM.



Ensure there is a properly-trained [Designated Person \(DP\)](#) assigned for each school. One of the most important indicators of compliance is having a properly trained DP.



Protect maintenance, custodial, and short-term workers through notification and training. The notification to short-term workers (contractors) about the presence of ACM in the building is required whenever a contractor conducts work in a school building.

Warning labels on ACM are required by AHERA. These should be visible and present in routine maintenance areas, including boiler rooms, mechanical rooms, storage rooms, and accessible areas such as above drop ceilings, crawl spaces, access hatchways, and attics.



Conduct six-month surveillance and three-year, accredited re-inspections, including the identification of all known or planned locations of ACM.



NJDOH Study on AHERA Compliance in Schools, Key Findings: [nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/ceohs%20content/Study on AHERA Compliance.pdf](https://nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/ceohs%20content/Study%20on%20AHERA%20Compliance.pdf)

School Asbestos Management Plan Requirements: [Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule](#)

AHERA Compliance, AMPS, and Resources for Schools and Parents (USEPA): epa.gov/asbestos/asbestos-and-school-buildings

How Schools Comply with the AHERA (USEPA): epa.gov/asbestos/asbestos-and-school-buildings#comply