

# AHERA Program

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act



## Is asbestos in my school?

Asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) may still be present in school buildings, even those built today. Schools must:

- Inspect their schools for ACBM
- Prepare an asbestos management plan (AMP)
- Take action to prevent or reduce asbestos hazards

## Does AHERA apply to my school?

AHERA applies to K-12 public and private non-profit schools, including public school districts, charter schools and schools affiliated with religious institutions.

## Is asbestos exposure dangerous?

Asbestos exposure may occur when ACBM is disturbed or damaged in some way to release asbestos fibers into the air. Exposure to asbestos can increase your risk of developing asbestos related diseases.

## What are the AHERA requirements?

- **Inspect** or **assume** suspect ACBM
- **Obtain** exclusion statement if no ACBM
- **Develop**, maintain, and update an AMP
- **Appoint** a trained Designated Person to ensure the AHERA responsibilities are properly implemented
- **Provide** asbestos-awareness training for custodial and maintenance staff that work in buildings with ACBM
- **Act** to prevent or reduce asbestos hazards
- **Ensure** that trained and licensed professionals perform inspections and take response actions
- **Perform** 6-month periodic surveillance of ACBM
- **Reinspect** ACBM every 3 years
- **Post** warning labels next to ACBM in routine maintenance areas
- **Inform** parents, teachers and employee organizations annually of the asbestos management plan and asbestos-related activities
- **Make** AMPs available for review at each school within 5 working days of request.

## What if I have more questions?

Contact the AHERA program by email at [AHERAHelp@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:AHERAHelp@dshs.texas.gov) or at 512-834-6787. Visit us at [dshs.texas.gov/AHERA](https://dshs.texas.gov/AHERA) for more information.

*\*This document is not a comprehensive list of AHERA requirements. Refer to CFR Title 40 763 Subpart E on our website.*



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