

A Participation Overview for Public Schools & Charter Schools: Asbestos Section

What is the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids™ program?

The goal of the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program is to identify and eliminate exposures to environmental hazards where North Carolina children learn and play. This program helps fulfill North Carolina requirements for public schools and child care facilities related to **lead in water**, **lead-based paint**, and **asbestos**.

This flyer focuses on **asbestos**.

The **Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)** is a federal rule that requires schools to complete an **initial inspection for asbestos** and a **reinspection at least once every three years**.



Who is involved in the program?

The Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program is a partnership between the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), and RTI International. Our program is supported by our liaison, NC Department of Public Instruction.

We partner with public schools to check for environmental hazards, share results, and help schools take action to ensure healthy learning environments for children. Schools' participation in this program is **FREE** thanks to funding from the state and federal government.

Why is the program important?

Asbestos is a known cancer-causing agent and there is no documented safe level of asbestos exposure. Asbestos was commonly used in various building materials, such as ceiling tiles, cement, floor tiles, insulation, roofing, and woven materials. While many asbestos-containing materials have been removed from schools, some may still be present. When safely managed, these materials do not present a hazard.

How does the program work?

Visit our program web page at www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/carolina to get started.



Pre-Enrollment



DESIGNATE PRIMARY CONTACT

Each school should designate a primary contact for the asbestos section. The designated primary contact should have access to asbestos-related information for the school. We recommend that the designated contact be either the local education agency's AHERA [Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act] designated person or someone who can easily contact the AHERA-designated person if they have any questions.



ATTEND PRE-ENROLLMENT WEBINAR

To access the online portal, school staff must first attend a pre-enrollment training webinar that will cover lead and asbestos hazards, state requirements, personnel and school information needed for the program, commonly asked questions, and tips for success. After attending the webinar, the attendee will receive the enrollment PIN to enroll through the online portal.



CREATE AN ONLINE ACCOUNT AND LINK TO YOUR SCHOOL

Go to www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/carolina.

Enrollment Survey



COMPLETE SECTION TRAINING

Watch the asbestos training video to learn how to complete the asbestos enrollment survey.



ENROLL YOUR SCHOOL

Fill out a short survey and upload documentation about building construction date(s), any existing asbestos inspections, and/or asbestos management plans.

ENROLLMENT SURVEY CHECKLIST

You will be asked to provide the following:

- Building information
- Student demographics
- Asbestos management plan
- Concerns about asbestos exposure
- Past and planned building renovations

Document Review and Response Actions



DOCUMENT REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS

We will review your survey and documents to determine the next steps for your school, which could include the following:

- **No Reinspection Needed**
 - Schools with AHERA asbestos exemption letters for all buildings may be exempt from the required reinspection.
 - Schools that had an asbestos reinspection within the past 3 years that meets the requirements may be exempt from the required reinspection.
- **Reinspection**
 - If your school is not exempt, we will coordinate a visit from an accredited asbestos professional. They will inspect the condition of building materials at your school and may collect samples to identify if these materials contain asbestos. Any collected samples will be analyzed by an RTI-designated laboratory.



FINAL REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We will provide recommendations for response actions based on the uploaded documents and reinspection results. If asbestos hazards are identified, recommended response actions may include restricting access to the hazards or mitigation activities, such as repairing, encapsulating, enclosing, or removing the materials.



TAKE ACTION

If asbestos hazards are identified, your school will be notified. Your school can choose whether to restrict access to or mitigate the hazard, with cost reimbursement available from NC DHHS. Visit the program website, www.cleanwaterforUSkids.org/carolina, to learn more about funding and covered mitigation activities.

With your help, we can identify and eliminate exposures to asbestos hazards where North Carolina children learn and play.



COMMUNICATE

We encourage schools to communicate with parents, staff, and students throughout the entire process. At a minimum, schools should notify parents, staff, and students if asbestos hazards are identified.

For tools to aid communication with your school's stakeholders, please visit our Resources page on the program website.



QUESTIONS?



F.A.Qs

bit.ly/3CK-faq



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