

AHERA Program

*Asbestos Hazard
Emergency Response Act*

Help us keep your
students and staff safe.

What is AHERA?

AHERA is a federal law that helps protect students, their families, educators and staff from exposure to asbestos in schools. A primary principle of AHERA is “in-place” asbestos management. Its regulations require public and private non-profit K – 12 schools to:

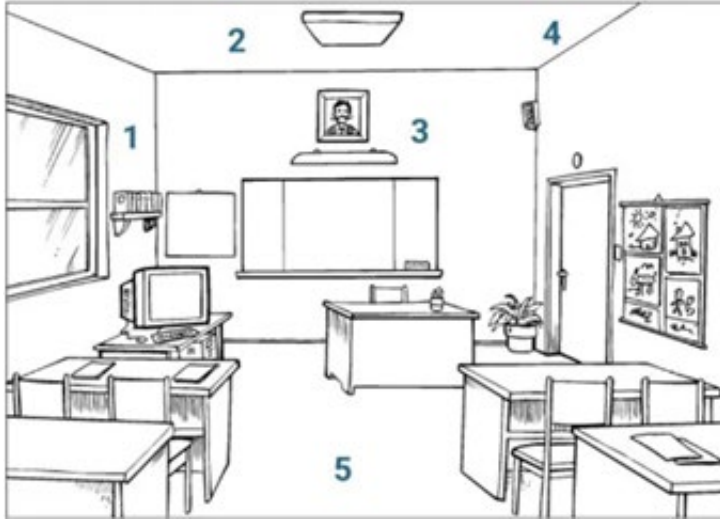
- Inspect their schools for asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM)
- Take action to prevent or reduce asbestos hazards
- Prepare Asbestos Management Plans (AMP)

Removal of ACBM is not always the safest option. Disturbing ACBM can release asbestos fibers. Exposure to these fibers could lead to asbestos-related diseases.

How do I know if my school is following the AHERA regulations?

You can request to review the AMP from your school. The records must be available to you within 5 working days. Ask to speak to your school’s Designated Person (DP). You can report AHERA compliance concerns to us.

Is asbestos in my school?



Schools may have asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM), even those built today. ACBM that is managed properly and maintained in good condition reduces asbestos exposure.

1. cement
2. ceiling tiles
3. wallboard and insulation
4. ceiling and wall texture
5. floor tiles, vinyl flooring, mastic and adhesives

How do AHERA regulations keep me safe?

AHERA requires* schools to:

- Inspect or assume suspect ACBM in all school buildings
- Develop an AMP for each school
- Appoint an AHERA DP to implement the AMP
- Check condition of ACBM every 6 months
- Reinspect ACBM every 3 years
- Provide custodial and maintenance staff with asbestos-awareness training
- Inform parents, teachers, and employees annually of the availability of the AMP and any asbestos-related activities
- Maintain records of repair renovations, maintenance, any removal of ACBM

The initial inspection identifies the location and condition of ACBM in your school. Schools must complete a response action for ACBM that is in poor condition. Training staff and regular monitoring of ACBM helps to prevent accidental fiber release.

Questions? Email us at AHERAHelp@dshs.texas.gov or call us at 512-834-6787.

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