



# ASBESTOS

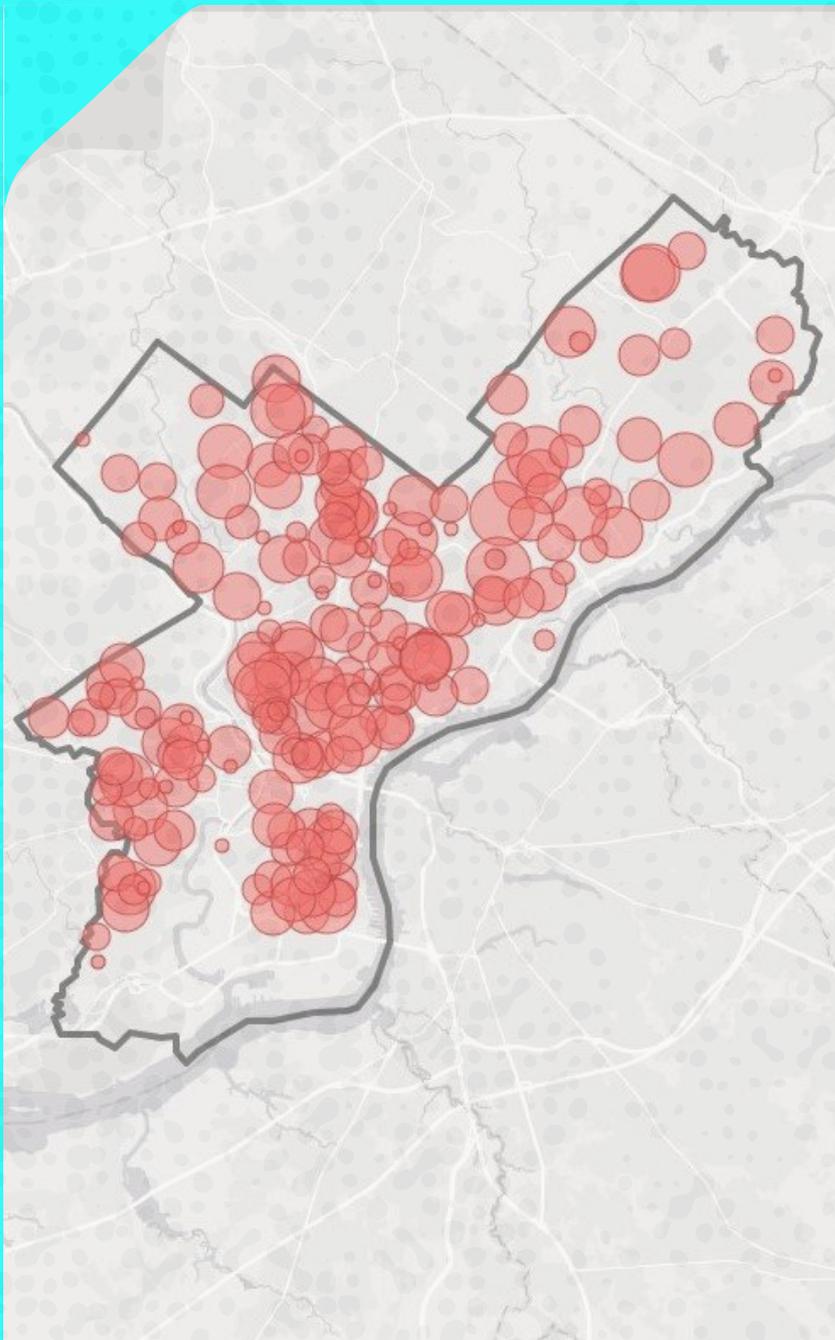
IN THE PHILLY SCHOOL DISTRICT

WRAPPED



# INTRODUCTION

**RECENTLY** asbestos contamination in Philadelphia schools has been in local news headlines. Asbestos is a threat to our children, teachers, staff, and our entire community. Check out this guide to learn more about this serious condition and how you can protect yourself and our community from this hazardous contaminant.



## ASBESTOS MAP

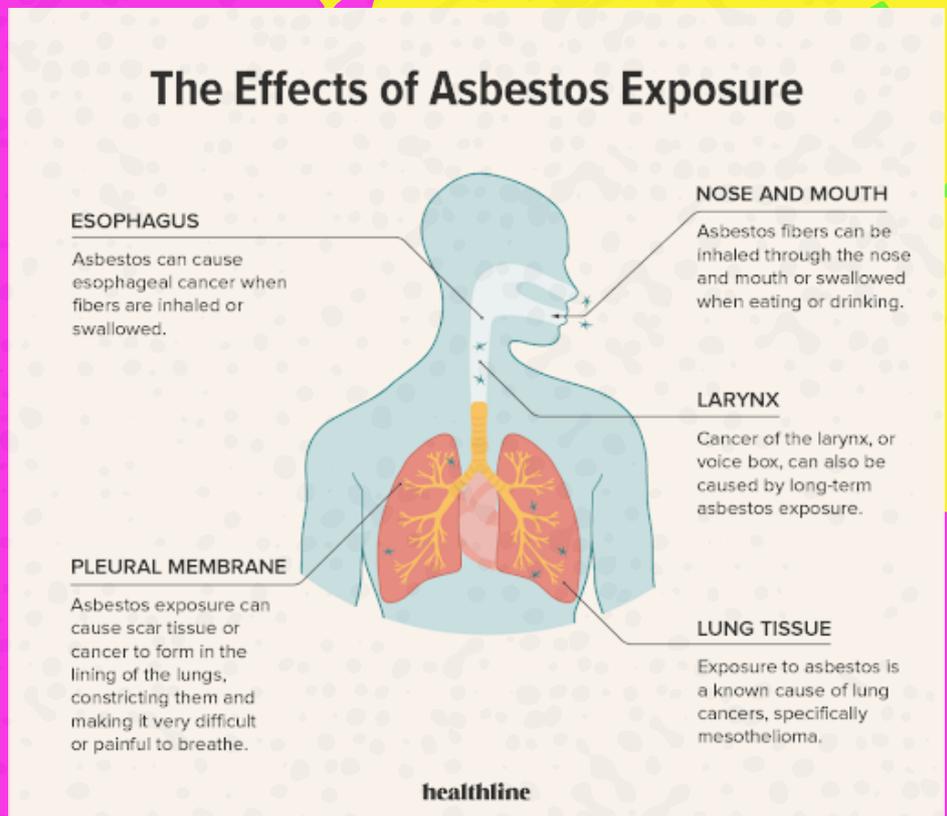
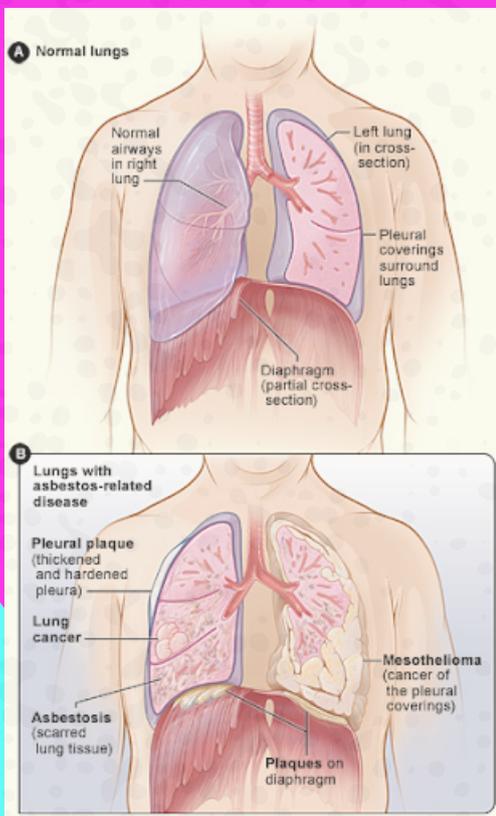
This interactive map shows asbestos abatement projects in the Philadelphia School District since 2016. The size of the circles indicates the number of projects at a particular school. View the full map at the QR code below for more information.

Alternatively, visit [bit.ly/PhillyAsbestosMap](https://bit.ly/PhillyAsbestosMap)



# ABOUT ASBESTOS

**ASBESTOS** is a hazardous material that consists of mineral fibers that are found in rocks and soil. Items that contain asbestos include insulation in walls, tiling used for floors, shingles, and more. The fibers that form asbestos can disperse easily. At certain amounts of exposure, there is a Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for asbestos. Exposure to asbestos can create health problems in the lungs and in the chests.



**ASBESTOS** can impact the body and can affect one's health based on age, gender, health status, family traits and lifestyle. Asbestos has the ability to break down into thin fibers, which can remain in the lungs for days after exposure. Once asbestos is lodged in the lung's tissue, it can lead to several diseases such as lung cancer, asbestosis, mesothelioma and pleural disease.

# ASBESTOS IN OUR SCHOOLS

**MANY** Philadelphia public schools have toxic conditions which not only adds to the fear of students, staff, and teachers', but contributes to potential health risks. "According to a Chalkbeat Philadelphia article, Philadelphia school buildings are around 70 years old on average." Hagen, Neena (2021, May 12 ) Damaged asbestos, peeling lead paint, and mold still in some Philadelphia schools, says teachers union.



**IN** addition to asbestos contamination, there are other hazardous conditions that can be found in Philadelphia schools like lead paint, lead in drinking water, lack of ventilation, mold, and roofing issues (Hagen). Asbestos contamination has affected the School District of Philadelphia for many years now, resulting in schools closing their doors. As reported by the Philadelphia Inquirer, some of the schools closed because of asbestos contamination include McClure Elementary, Carnell Elementary, Science Leadership Academy, Ben Franklin High, T.M Pierce Elementary, Hopkinson Elementary, the Franklin Learning Center, and the Pratt Early Childhood Center.

# ASBESTOS DISASTER

**IN** August of 2019, Benjamin Franklin High School and Science Leadership Academy still experienced toxins after their building was refurbished in response to the initial asbestos crisis. However, it took until October for the district to admit it needed time to clear pipes in the building. Because of building contaminations, students temporarily relocated from the location and a 13 million dollar cleanup commenced, according to a Billy Penn article.

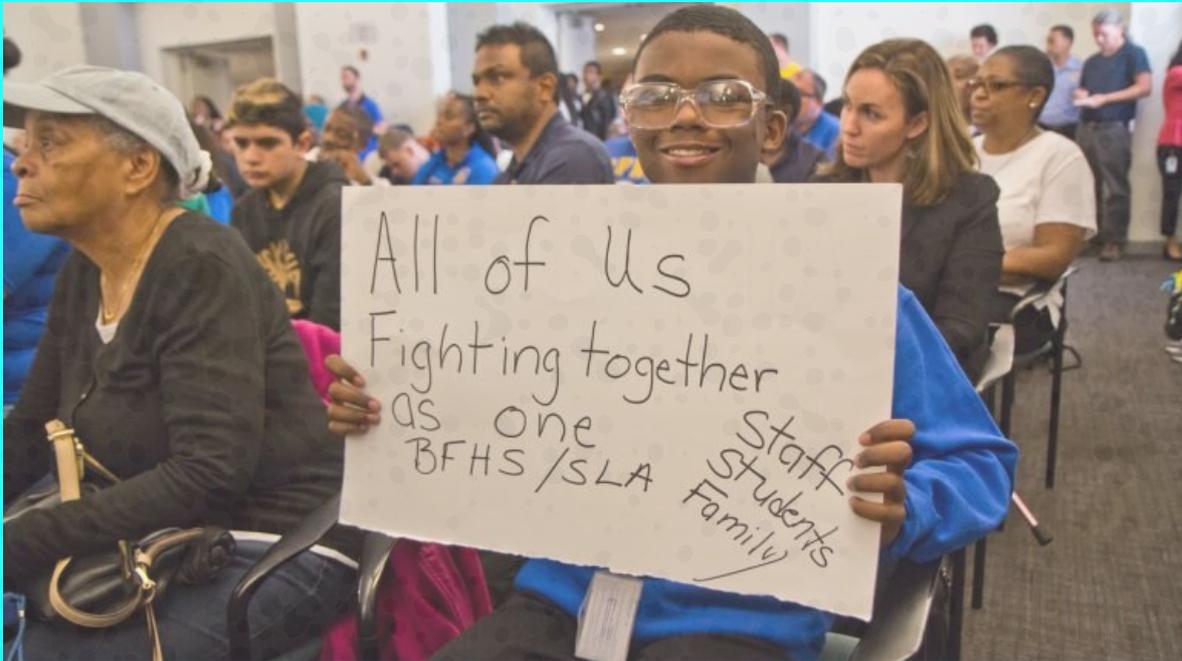


Photo credit: Kimberly Paynter/WHYY Pictured: Maurice Boston, student at Benjamin Franklin High School

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