



REGION 5

CHICAGO, IL 60604

June 17, 2024

Mr. Roy Berlocker, Facilities Director
ACCEL SCHOOLS OHIO LLC
Corporation Service Company
251 Little Falls Drive
Wilmington, Delaware 19808
rberlocker@accelschools.com

Re: Ongoing Health Hazards and Summer Programming at Youngstown Academy of Excellence, STEAM Academy of Warren, and Niles Preparatory Academy

Dear Mr. Roy Berlocker:

Thank you for your cooperation thus far with regards to the asbestos and lead-based paint issues identified at Youngstown Academy of Excellence, STEAM Academy of Warren, and Niles Preparatory Academy. As previously discussed, EPA has serious concerns with summer programming planned at all three schools and potential for further exposure of students and staff due to the health risks that exist at present.

On June 14, ACCEL posted on its websites for Youngstown Academy of Excellence and STEAM Academy of Warren that ACCEL's environmental consulting firm "recommended abating a small area of ceiling tiles in a first-floor janitor's closet and in an unused third-floor bathroom, two areas inaccessible to students," within the Youngstown Academy of Excellence school building. The website also indicates that this maintenance within the Youngstown Academy of Excellence school building "began immediately and abatement is expected to conclude tomorrow [June 15]. We plan to reopen campus on Monday, June 17."

At this time, EPA has only received location-specific data for asbestos containing material at Youngstown Academy of Excellence, but neither EPA nor ACCEL have confirmation regarding asbestos at STEAM Academy of Warren or Niles Preparatory Academy, or lead-based paint at any of the three schools. EPA is concerned with other areas of the Youngstown school building aside from the first-floor janitor's closet and third floor bathroom, as stated on pages 10-14 of EPA's inspection report and pages 5-12 of ACCEL's contractor's inspection report of Youngstown Academy of Excellence. In fact, the ceiling tile identified as the subject of the abatement actions over the weekend was not recommended to be abated by ACCEL's consulting firm. Also, EPA has not received any confirmation of clearance sampling performed at Youngstown Academy of Excellence to support its decision to reopen the campus.

It is EPA's understanding that asbestos inspections were recently performed at STEAM Academy of Warren and Niles Preparatory Academy. EPA requested but has not yet received results from these asbestos inspections. Additionally, it is EPA's understanding that ACCEL has not conducted inspections for lead-based paint concerns at any of these three schools.

In light of the confirmed and potential health hazards posed at these schools, and the absence of confirmation that those hazards have been abated, EPA continues to recommend to ACCEL that it relocate all of its summer activities occurring within the Youngstown Academy of Excellence, STEAM Academy of Warren, or Niles Preparatory Academy school buildings and isolate areas in which EPA and/or ACCEL's environmental contractors identified potential asbestos or deteriorating lead-based paint hazards until clearance sampling can be completed and provided to EPA. EPA is reiterating its request that ACCEL relocate all of its summer activities and isolate these areas within these three schools. EPA is requesting ACCEL update its statements on its websites and any notifications to parents to indicate that not all areas of concern with the three schools have been addressed or cleared yet, and students will only be able to return upon confirmation that asbestos and/or lead paint hazards are not present.

Sincerely,

/s/Julie Morris Date: June 17, 2024

Manager

Land Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Branch

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