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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 5, 2010**

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Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, (478) 988-6390 ext. 0, [Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net](mailto:Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net)

**Full Compliance with Asbestos Hazard Response Act**

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - The Houston County School System is pleased to announce compliance with federal regulations concerning the Asbestos Hazard Response Act (AHERA). To comply with these regulations, all public and private elementary, middle and secondary schools must be re-inspected for all friable and non-friable asbestos-containing materials by an accredited inspector.

In addition, an Asbestos Management Plan was required to be updated by an accredited planner and submitted to the Georgia State Department of Education by July 13, 2010. A copy of this Asbestos Management Plan is located in each school office and is available to the public. Anyone desiring a copy of the plan may obtain a copy by paying a reasonable copying fee.

As always, the Houston County School System is pleased to comply with all aspects of State and Federal Government to assure a safe, healthy, and effective environment for our children and our employees.

For more information, please contact the Safety/Environmental Supervisor and Asbestos Management Planner/Inspector, Katherine Pearce, with the Houston County Board of Education Maintenance Department. She may be contacted by e-mail at [Katherine.Pearce@hcbe.net](mailto:Katherine.Pearce@hcbe.net) or by phone at (478) 929-7808, extension 4.

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