



**Department of
Environmental
Protection**

59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, New York
11373-5108

**Christopher O. Ward
Commissioner**

March 3, 2003

Ms. Kathleen Grimm
Deputy Chancellor
New York City Department of Education
The Tweed Courthouse
New York, New York 10007

Dear Deputy Chancellor Grimm:

After consulting with the Department of Education and reviewing the letters of support from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the New York City Department of Health (NYCDOH), please be advised that we acquiesce to their recommendations regarding the carpet removal at New York City Department of Education schools impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center.

USEPA and the NYCDOH have stated that the removal of carpet is a reasonable and proper action to eliminate concerns regarding potential contaminants in this porous material. The DEP concurs with this assessment.

According to our information, the environmental air sampling results at these schools indicated sampling and analysis was in accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requirements. Specifically, the results indicate the clearance and re-occupancy criteria set forth in AHERA (70 s/mm²) were met.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (718) 595-3721.

**Robert C. Avaltroni
Deputy Commissioner**

**Bureau of
Environmental
Compliance**

Tel (718) 595-4418
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Sincerely,

Robert C. Avaltroni
Deputy Commissioner



www.nyc.gov/dep

(718) DEP-HELP

Draft

February 14, 2003
Kathleen Grimm, Deputy Chancellor
New York City Department of Education
The Tweed Courthouse
New York, NY 10007

Dear Deputy Chancellor Grimm,

As per your request, I am writing in support of FEMA reimbursement for carpet removal at Stuyvesant High School and other public schools that were impacted by the destruction of the World Trade Center (WTC). EPA has worked cooperatively with the Department of Education on sampling and data interpretation issues at schools impacted by the WTC disaster. In a previous letter (see enclosure) addressing the issue of asbestos contamination at Stuyvesant High School, EPA concluded that the asbestos air testing at Stuyvesant met the clearance criteria set forth in the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) for re-entry into schools. However, it was also noted that properly conducted carpet removal (in a manner consistent with DOE's "Carpet Removal Protocol" for Stuyvesant High School) would "eliminate any potential future risk associated with re-entrainment of asbestos fibers in carpet." Accordingly, carpet removal is a reasonable and prudent action to take at schools significantly impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center to eliminate potential reservoirs of asbestos.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Callahan