

## **Barrington Place Elementary Mold Remediation FAQ**

Fort Bend ISD identified the existence of non-airborne mold at Barrington Place Elementary (BPE) in June 2022. As a result, the campus will be closed for the 2022-23 school year and students will be assigned to nearby schools while renovations and remediation take place.

### **When did the District discover the non-airborne mold issue at BPE?**

Minor mold growth was initially reported in late May 2022 on a few small sections of walls at the campus. This is not uncommon, as mold particles are found in the air at all times. FBISD's Facilities Department performed the EPA-approved standard cleaning procedure using an anti-microbial cleaning agent to remove the mold.

Further testing was conducted to ensure there was no mold growth inside the walls. Results indicated there were no concerns within the walls, but mold was discovered in the insulation above the ceiling that surrounds the chilled water piping.

### **How widespread is the problem?**

Mold growth was identified on insulation that surrounds the chilled water piping that runs throughout the school above the ceiling.

### **What caused this to happen?**

Barrington Place Elementary is 32 years old and it is not uncommon for materials and components to begin to fail in aging buildings. Insulation that surrounds the chilled water piping deteriorated which allowed moisture to get inside the material and created conditions suitable for mold growth. The insulation will be removed through remediation processes and replaced with new insulation.

### **Did health issues among students and staff prompt the discovery of the mold?**

No, to date the District has not received any complaints of health issues.

### **Is the non-airborne mold harmful to students or staff members who occupied the building?**

The mold that currently resides within the insulation of the chilled water piping is above the ceiling, undisturbed. It is not airborne which indicates it is not an immediate hazard. In order to avoid having it become hazardous in the future, the District will remediate the mold.

### **What school will my student be moved to and for how long?**

Barrington Place Elementary students and staff will be placed in classrooms at Sugar Mill, Meadows and Lakeview elementary schools.

Placements will be as follows:

- Pre-K and Early Childhood Special Education will relocate to Sugar Mill Elementary
- Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades will relocate to Meadows Elementary
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will relocate to Lakeview Elementary

Complete remediation and renovations at Barrington Place are scheduled to be completed before the start of school in August 2023.

### **Will my student be taught by a BPE teacher or placed with a teacher at their host school?**

To the greatest extent possible, BPE students will be taught by a BPE teacher. Teacher assignments will be determined by the host campus and communicated to parents before school begins.

### **Will my children who are in different grades, be assigned to different campuses?**

Students will be assigned by grade levels to host campuses.

### **Who will serve as principals under the host schools arrangement?**

BPE Principal Ruth Riha, an experienced leader, will continue to serve as principal to all Barrington Place students and staff. In addition, she will also serve as principal of Meadows Elementary to succeed previous principal Courtney Dickey. Lakeview Principal Alena McClanahan and Sugar Mill Principal Jaimie Geis will remain the leaders of their respective campuses.

### **My child is registered for a paid tuition-based seat in pre-K at BPE. What happens now?**

Students registered to attend tuition-based pre-K at BPE will attend Sugar Mill Elementary School.

### **How will the Extended Day program for BPE students be conducted?**

Extended Day services will be offered to BPE students at their assigned host campuses.

**Will my student be provided transportation to the new campus? If so, will their bus stop change?**

Yes, BPE students in grades K – 5 will be provided transportation in accordance with District guidelines based on the host campuses to which they are assigned. Bus stop information will be communicated to parents no later than August 5.

**Will BPE students ride buses with students at the new school they are assigned to attend?**

BPE students may share bus rides with students zoned to the host campuses.

**Do I need to register my student at their newly assigned host campus?**

Children zoned to BPE who are new to Fort Bend ISD will register with Barrington Place staff or the host campus staff. Returning BPE students do not need to register again with BPE or with their host campus.

**What paperwork will be required to fill out due to this change in schools?**

No additional forms need to be completed due to relocation to a host campus.

**Will BPE's principal, teachers and support staff relocate to work at the newly assigned schools?**

BPE staff will relocate to the host campuses to support BPE students. It is possible that a few staff members may be assigned to other campuses as needs dictate.

**Will the host schools become overcrowded because of the BPE relocation?**

No, host campuses have the capacity to accommodate BPE students.

**Will portable classrooms become necessary at the host campuses?**

Host campuses have capacity to accommodate BPE students without the need for portable classrooms.

**What measures will the District take to ensure mold growth does not occur again at BPE?**

Mold particles are part of the natural environment and flow freely in the air. They can be found inside and outside all buildings. The District strives to maintain relative humidity levels below 60 percent within our buildings, which prevents moisture condensation and mold growth. Routine inspections for mold growth regularly take place on FBISD campuses, which is how the issue at Barrington Place was identified.

### **Who can I contact if I have additional questions or concerns?**

You may call 281-634-4040 to speak with District staff who can respond to your questions and concerns. Phone lines are open the week of July 18<sup>th</sup> until 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 and from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20 and Thursday, July 21.

### **How long will BPE students and staff be displaced?**

Repairs at BPE are expected to be complete before the beginning of school in August 2023.

### **Can I request a transfer to another FBISD campus instead of the host campus my student is assigned?**

District administration will determine whether or not students may request a transfer and will communicate the information to parents.

### **Why was this issue not communicated sooner?**

Results of the environmental tests were complete at the end of June. Shortly after the District reopened after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday week, the information was communicated to parents and staff.

The renovation of the interior of BPE was identified as a need during the 2018 facility assessment plan and the project was slated to be included in the proposed 2022 bond package. Instead of renovating the campus in sections as originally planned, the District will close BPE for the 2022-23 school year to complete the renovations and remediation. This will occur whether or not a 2022 Bond election takes place and passes.

### **How can this be done without a bond election?**

During the 2014 and 2018 Bond, construction of elementary campuses (Sullivan and Bhuchar elementary schools) started the year before the bond election took place. The District accomplished this by asking the Board to approve a bond reimbursement resolution. The same approach can be used in this case.