



Regional Office of Education
LASALLE, MARSHALL & PUTNAM

**Christopher B.
Dvorak**
*Regional
Superintendent*

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February 3, 2016

Superintendent Rolf Sivertsen
Midland C.U.S.D. #7
901 Hilltop Drive
Sparland, IL 61375

Dear Superintendent Sivertsen,


On January 15, 2016, the Regional Office of Education conducted our annual Health/Life Safety Survey for your district. The inspection identified loose, peeling paint in numerous areas throughout the inside and the outside of the Lacon Elementary building. The inspection identified water leaking from the ceiling at the main entrance of this building with staining of ceiling tile and carpet observed as well as water damage to a wood beam. Additional testing of this building was recommended to the district. The district arranged further inspection through their environmental testing company IDEAL. Testing by IDEAL took place on January 27, 2016. Initial tests results by IDEAL provided on January 27, 2016 identified the loose paint on the first floor to contain lead and loose paint on the outside walls to contain lead. The Regional Office of Education conducted an additional visit to the building on January 29, 2016 with Kurt Kuchle Director of Health Protection for the County Health Department and Gary Kroeschen County Board Chairman; an inspection of the building was conducted by the health department during this visit. IDEAL's written report was provided to the district and the Regional Office of Education on January 29, 2016. IDEAL's report detailed findings and recommendations for lead and mold found through the testing. The district requested IDEAL to conduct further testing on the building with testing occurring on February 1, 2016 and February 2, 2016. IDEAL is in the process of completing the official report.

On February 2, 2016, Diana Rawlings, Public Health Administrator for the County Health Department, issued a letter to the district and to the Regional Office of Education. The Health Department letter provided the following recommendation to the district (letter is attached with this correspondence for your reference) : **"...the Health Department recommends that students are not in the Elementary School Building until remediation action has been completed and the building has been cleared by a Licensed Lead Risk Assessor of any risk of lead exposure."**

The Regional Office of Education is recommending the district follow the Health Department's recommendation, provided on February 2, 2016 by Diana Rawlings, effective immediately. Students should not be allowed in the Lacon Elementary building until all remediation steps have been taken as advised through IDEAL, a new inspection report is provided by IDEAL that states all identified hazardous areas of the school have been remedied, and the Health Department deems the building safe for students. The Regional Office of Education recommends that the district take safety measures to keep students off of Lacon school grounds until all hazards are remedied. The Regional Office of Education recommends that staff members are limited from the building as the district remediates hazards.

The Regional Office of Education continues to be available to assist the district as needed. Our immediate priority is to get all students back to school. All district students have been out of school since January 28, 2016 (following IDEAL's initial report). As we continue to work together to ensure a safe environment for student learning, please contact me as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher B. Dvorak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Christopher B. Dvorak
Regional Superintendent
LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Counties

Enclosure: February 2, 2016 Health Department Letter



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

February 2, 2016

Rolf Sivertsen, Superintendent
Midland CUSD-7
901 Hilltop Drive
Sparland, IL 61375

Re: Midland Elementary School

Dear Mr. Sivertsen,

The Marshall County Health Department is in receipt of the Limited Lead Based Paint Inspection and Risk Assessment conducted on January 27, 2016 at Midland Elementary School, 206 N. High Street, Lacon IL 61540 by Ideal Environmental Engineering, Inc. In addition, Kurt Kuchle, Director of Health Protection, from our office did a walk-through of the facility on January 28, 2016.

While lead based paint is generally not a health hazard when it is in good repair, chipping paint and paint dust are a significant health hazard for children, especially those ages 6 and under. Based upon the results of the Risk Assessment, and in an effort to ensure the health and safety of our local children, the Health Department recommends that students are not in the Elementary School Building until remediation action has been completed and the building has been cleared by a Licensed Lead Risk Assessor of any risk of lead exposure.

If you have any questions, or if we can help in any way please contact me directly at 815-872-5091.

Sincerely,

Diana Rawlings, Public Health Administrator
Bureau, Putnam & Marshall County Health Departments
diana.rawlings@bchealthdepartment.org

CC: Chris Dvorak Regional Office of Education
Andrew Dorsey, Board of Health President

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