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Jennifer K. Bates, Ed.D.
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may be aware from recent news reports, many schools around the country that were built during the time period between the 1960's and the late 1990's had had rubberized polyurethane gym floors installed in order to increase comfort for occupants and reduce risk of injury from falls during normal gym activities. However, over the past year or so, concerns have been raised that some of those floor were emitting Mercury vapor as they aged.

Of all our schools and campuses, only the Salem County Vocational-Technical High School and Salem County Special Services School (RDS/Salem Campus) were built during that time period and have rubberized polyurethane gym floors. As such, we took steps to both test the floors in those buildings in order to determine if there was any health hazard for our staff and students, and have begun investigating the possible removal of those floors going forward.

The testing of those floor was conducted by an independent Certified Industrial Hygienist who concluded that the rubberized gym floors at both the Vocational-Technical High School and the RDS/Salem Campus do not pose a health hazard as the Mercury levels that were found were well below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's and the Department of Health's acceptable thresholds, and the regulatory limits established by the New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (NJ PEOSA) program.

The Salem County Vocational-Technical and Salem County Special Services School District's will continue to monitor this situation and take every precaution to keep our students, staff members, and stakeholders safe. If you have any further questions of concerns, please feel free to contact me at 1-856-769-0101 ext. 5301.

Respectfully,
John R. Swain
Superintendent