

JOINT RELEASE:
Greenwich Board of Education * Town of Greenwich * GHS-MISA Building Committee
Greenwich, CT

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GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING UPDATE
GHS Fields Remain Closed Until Further Notice
School Will Open on Schedule
Parking and Field Use May Be Restricted as School Opens

Review of current status: *In mid July 2011, during the course of the excavation work for the Greenwich High School Music Instructional Space and Auditorium (MISA) project, unexpected soil conditions were discovered in the West (or back) parking lot, adjacent to the fields, which prompted immediate environmental testing. The site work in the west lot was stopped and the excavation area was contained. The initial tests reflected low levels of some metals, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the soil. A second round of samples was taken on July 20th and included soil and indoor and outdoor air testing. The results of the air quality tests indicate all selected factors are within acceptable levels. The results of the second round of soil samples duplicated the previous results, which showed low levels of some metals, VOCs and PCBs in the soil. On Friday, July 29, 2011 the results of a third set of soil samples taken closer to fields 3 and 4 at a depth of one foot beneath the surface, reflected PCBs levels that are above acceptable standards for residential or commercial use as determined by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). These results prompted the closure of all fields as a precaution until a more comprehensive understanding of the extent of the issue could be determined.*

Update: Based on the results of testing received on Friday, July 29th all Greenwich High School fields will remain closed until further notice.

The Greenwich Public Schools/Board of Education, the Town of Greenwich and the GHS-MISA Building Committee are working in collaboration to address the environmental concerns of the fields at Greenwich High School. Licensed Environmental Professionals have been contracted to plan for and conduct more comprehensive testing. The Town and State Departments of Health and Environmental Protection have also been consulted.

With the information available to date, plans are being developed to ensure that the high school will open as scheduled.

School District and Town officials will work together to create contingency plans – in case they are needed - for all programs (GHS Physical Education, Athletic, Town, and Community, etc.) that use the fields.

As soon as the next phase of evaluation is completed and a more comprehensive testing schedule is established, the District will be able to better plan for any impact on field use, programs, costs, the MISA project, etc.

The site work in the North and South lots at the high school has continued and has not been compromised due to the situation in the West lot and the fields.

Updates are posted to the District and Greenwich High School Web Sites as new information becomes available: www.greenwichschools.org - click on “Updates on Environmental Testing at GHS”