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STATEMENT

July 11, 2008

RUBBER PELLETS IN ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently issued a health advisory recommending the testing of synthetic turf fibers for the possible presence of lead. The advisory, which only identifies concern regarding dust containing lead from worn fibers, recommends that access to children under the age of six years old be restricted if the dust contains more than 400 parts per million.

The Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) tested synthetic turf fibers at nine schools and found them to be absent of lead. Consequently, no further action is required with synthetic turf fibers.

Typical synthetic turf systems include rubber pellets which are small particles used to hold the synthetic grass in place. In an abundance of caution, while testing the fibers, OEHS also tested the turf's rubber pellets at these nine schools. Some of these rubber pellets samples tested positive for small traces of lead. The lead found in these samples ranged from 26 to 64 parts per million, well below levels that are considered dangerous to children.

So, although there is no evidence of harm to any children at our schools, after consulting with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and again in an abundance of caution, the rubber pellets will be removed from the early education centers.

Starting on **Saturday, July 12, 2008**, LAUSD contracted work crews will be performing remediation work on the synthetic turf areas at 54 early education centers to remove the rubber pellets. All work will be performed after hours and on weekends, and is scheduled to be completed by **Monday, July 21, 2008**. All areas will be closed until the work is completed and further analyzed.

We would like to emphasize that this action is being taken as a precautionary measure to further ensure the safety of our students. If parents or families have any concerns about lead exposure, they should discuss this with their personal health care provider and determine if lead testing is warranted.

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