



SELIGMAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #40

P.O. Box 650
Seligman, AZ 86337
(928) 216-4123
(928) 422-3642 Fax
www.seligmanschools.org

"Home of the Seligman Antelopes"

September 21, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As partners in education, we want to update you on the closure of the gym in Seligman High School. On September 1, 2016, as part of a statewide inspection for rubber flooring that may contain mercury, it was discovered that a rubberized floor exists under the wood floor in the gym.

Widely marketed to universities, colleges, and K-12 schools, some polyurethane or rubberized flooring manufactured from about 1960 through the 1990's, was a popular choice for schools because of its resiliency and sound absorption properties. Certain types of rubberized flooring used mercury as a catalyst during the manufacturing process, which may now be releasing mercury vapor into the air. It is important to know that the presence of mercury does not automatically present a health concern.

The Arizona School Facilities Board, in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the Arizona Department of Health Services has established a Multi-Agency Task Force for the development of protocols for taking bulk and air samples for testing to determine the presence of mercury in the floor and mercury vapor in the air. More information on the Arizona Rubber Flooring Project, including Resources on the health effects of mercury, can be found at the following website. Please visit <https://schoolflooring.az.gov/state-arizona-school-flooring-remediation-project>.

The test results from the gym revealed the presence of mercury in the floor and mercury vapor in the air. According to the protocols established by the Task Force and in an abundance of caution, we have closed the gym. We take the health and safety of our students, staff and the general public very seriously and while we recognize it will be inconvenient, the closure of the gymnasium is necessary.

We do not currently have a timetable for the reopening of the gym. Until then, we will make arrangements at other facilities for games and practices. We will also provide updates as more information becomes available. Please contact the district office at 928-216-4123, Option 1, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Diane Pritchett
Superintendent