

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1985

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DOLE ANNOUNCES EPA FUNDS TO CLEAN UP ASBESTOS PROBLEM IN 15 KANSAS SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole today announced that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has granted \$220,196.64 in no-interest loans to 15 Kansas schools for asbestos cleanup projects.

The funds were authorized through the 1984 Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act (ASHAA), which made loans and grants available to both public and private schools needing assistance with their efforts to abate school asbestos hazards. The Act was precipitated by the discovery that inhalation of asbestos fibers could cause lung cancer, asbestosis (scarring of the lungs) and other diseases, particularly among children subjected to long-term exposure.

"The presence of asbestos in our Kansas schools has concerned all of us for quite some time. While the EPA unfortunately cannot spend money to eliminate asbestos risks in all our nation's schools, this program is a good start towards alleviating this threat to our children," said Dole. "I hope this will set an example for other school officials to deal with the asbestos problem right away, with or without Federal assistance."

Because of limited funding for the program, the Governors of each State were asked to rank schools applying from their states based on the nature and magnitude of asbestos exposure. Then EPA, in making the final decision, considered (1) the Governor's priority; (2) the likelihood of asbestos release into school areas where children can breathe it; (3) the extent to which the school's proposed corrective actions will reduce exposure and their cost-effectiveness compared to other techniques; and (4) the financial resources to solve their asbestos problems.

Nationwide, 191 local educational authorities received grants or loans for asbestos cleanup projects. Of these, four loans were awarded to Kansas authorities. The following schools will benefit from these EPA loans:

CITY - AMOUNT

SCHOOLS

BONNER SPRINGS - \$52,621.00

BONNER SPRINGS HIGH

GOODLAND - \$40,725.00

MAX JONES FIELD HOUSE
CENTRAL ELEMENTARY
GRANT JUNIOR HIGH
GOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL
NORTH ELEMENTARY
WEST ELEMENTARY

OLATHE - \$117,009.64

AREA VOCATIONAL SCH
CENTRAL ELEMENTARY
RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY
WESTVIEW ELEMENTARY
SANTA FE TRAIL JUNIOR
COUNTRYSIDE ELEMENTARY -
SHAWNEE MISSION

SHAWNEE MISSION

BELOIT - \$9,841.00

ST. JOHN'S GRADE
ST. JOHN'S HIGH