

## A. Update on Transylvania County Schools Air Quality Test Report

- ❑ As part of the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education joint Education Capital Workgroup Study, the county commissioned a firm in late 2023 to have air quality testing completed at all Transylvania County School sites except for those that school staff advised that they had already had testing performed in the recent history.
- ❑ The reports show the firm tested 88 locations and found levels with 9 of the 88 tests that exceeded the mold levels in the air at the exterior of the building.
- ❑ Overall, the mold types discovered are typical to the area based on the reports from the firm.
- ❑ There were some tests that showed mold described as common in conditions either having indoor plants or with foot traffic bringing in material such as a mulched playground.

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- ❑ One type of mold identified in the 9 elevated tests suggested mold associated with water leak damage to building materials. This type of mold is a known allergen and can cause respiratory issues for those allergic.
- ❑ The firm recommended replacement of moldy tiles damaged from prior leaks and improved temperature control/humidity control with HVAC.
- ❑ The reports and recommendations were included in the building assessment data and were addressed in projects recommended for HVAC and roof improvements to prevent water infiltration.

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### □ Summary By School Site:

- RMS/RHS had one elevated level at the lower-level gym. They recommended replacement of moldy tiles. Commissioners approved funds for HVAC at the site in FY 24, but there is a current school request to cancel the project from the funding allocated and include in the bond improvements instead.
- BMS had 3 elevated tests in a corridor, theater/music, and gym. They recommended replacement of moldy tiles and a dehumidifier in the music room. There is a current HVAC improvement underway at BMS.
- BES had 3 elevated tests in a classroom and two corridors. They recommended HVAC improvements. There are HVAC improvements currently underway at BES.

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- Summary By School Site (Continued):
  - TCH had one elevated test in the library. They recommended HVAC improvements. Commissioners approved HVAC funds at the site in FY 23, but there is a current school request to cancel the project from the funding allocated and include in the bond improvements instead.
  - BHS had 2 elevated tests in a corridor and in the cafeteria/kitchen. The recommendation was to improve HVAC, and for the cafeteria kitchen, they indicated there appeared to be soiled material from a prior leak that needed to be cleaned.

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- ❑ Progress on Recommendations:
  - ❑ County staff initiated a coordinated effort with the school system and completed the recommended cleaning from the environmental testing firm in the Brevard High School Cafeteria in May 2024 during a long weekend for the school system when students were not in the building.
  - ❑ This was the highest level reported in the assessment and a priority for abatement. The work has been completed and paid directly to the vendor by the County.
  
- ❑ Staff is recommending that Commissioners allocate \$200,000 from the Education Capital Fund to support recommendations in the report.