1. Preamble

1.1 The Waterloo Region District School WRDSB (WRDSB) owns and leases various sites to carry out the business of the WRDSB. The following provides guidelines and expectations pertaining to the use of these sites as it relates to Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs).

1.2 Under Ontario Regulation 278/05, asbestos is a designated substance. It is a fibrous mineral that was used legally in Ontario from early 1900 through 1986 in many building materials such as pipe and boiler insulation, texture finishes, floor and ceiling tiles, and sprayed fireproofing and prefabricated cement products.

2. General

2.1 Asbestos is present in many of the buildings that the WRDSB maintains and operates. The WRDSB has continued to retain a third party to conduct audits of all sites the WRDSB owns to identify ACMs at each site. The WRDSB has an Asbestos Management Program (AMP) to identify, manage, maintain, remediate if required, and control access where required to areas that contain asbestos.

2.2 While exposure to asbestos fibres can result in serious health effects, the presence of ACMs in a building does not necessarily constitute a health hazard. ACMs that are in good and fair condition, undisturbed and managed, are not likely to release fibres into the air and are therefore unlikely to pose a health hazard to building occupants.

3. Asbestos Audits and Inspections

3.1 Building owners are required to provide a record pertaining to ACM within its buildings. WRDSB owned sites have completed Asbestos Audits and Inspections that can be found in the main office of our school sites and the Facility Services Department at the Education Centre. In facilities that the WRDSB leases from other property owners, it is the property owner’s responsibility under Ontario Regulation 278/05 to provide a record of asbestos material at each location and make it available to the occupants.

3.2 In general, buildings constructed after 1986 are not likely to contain ACM. Documentation in the form of a letter for these sites is available in the main office. Sites constructed prior to 1986 are more likely to contain ACM and are subject to a more rigorous audit process including sampling of suspect ACM.
3.3 These Asbestos Audit reports describe confirmed or suspected ACM in the report. The Asbestos Audit report contains floor plans that identify ACM within the facility for ease of reference.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 All WRDSB employees and contractors are required to become familiar with the Asbestos Audit for the site in which they work or will be conducting maintenance activities or other activities that may disturb ACMs.

4.2 Site administrators are responsible for the management of their site and in turn must make the Asbestos Audits readily available in the main office for WRDSB staff, contractors and school councils if requested.

5. Asbestos Management Plan (AMP)

5.1 An AMP has been developed specifically for the WRDSB. The AMP provides additional details concerning asbestos, how the WRDSB assesses and manages ACMs in its facilities, who can work with ACMs by controlling worker, contractor, occupant, and public activities which may disturb ACMs or be carried out in close proximity to ACM. The AMP also prescribes the protective measures for working with ACMs. Should asbestos activities be undertaken at a site, the applicable sections of the AMP must be adhered to as the AMP complies with Ontario Regulation 278/05 as well as notification requirements of the WRDSB and the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

6. ACM Record

6.1 Any work undertaken at a site that impacts ACM must be documented and these documents maintained and incorporated into regular updates to the asbestos binder.