



Ligonier Valley School District

Maximizing Individual Potential

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Ligonier, Pennsylvania 15658-1295
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Office of the Superintendent

August 29, 2026

Re: LVSD School Closure – Monday, August 31, 2026

Dear Ligonier Valley Families,

I am writing to provide an important update regarding the ongoing indoor air quality concerns at R.K. Mellon Elementary School and additional steps the Ligonier Valley School District will be taking across our District. I want to again thank our families, faculty, and staff for their patience, understanding, and continued trust as we work through this process. The health and safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority, and we will continue to make decisions with that responsibility at the forefront.

On Thursday, August 27, Pittsburgh Firewater Response completed remediation work in the classrooms at R.K. Mellon Elementary School previously identified as areas of concern. Following that work, Allegheny Mountain Research returned to R.K. Mellon on Friday, August 28, to conduct additional air quality sampling. Samples were collected from the remediated classrooms, as well as several additional targeted areas throughout the building.

The follow-up testing showed that the remediation efforts reduced levels in all of the rooms that were tested for a second time. Several rooms, including some within the same general area as the original concerns and some newly tested rooms on the second floor, produced results within acceptable limits.

However, the cluster of rooms originally targeted for remediation and follow-up sampling continues to show levels above those that Gary Miller, a Certified Indoor Air Environmentalist with Allegheny Mountain Research, would recommend prior to occupancy. Based upon his professional assessment of the latest results, Mr. Miller has recommended that the District undertake a more thorough remediation process.

Mr. Miller has recommended SERVPRO, a professional remediation company with which he has previously worked, to complete this additional work. Because this next phase of remediation may be more extensive and intrusive, and out of an abundance of caution, the District has made the decision to close the R.K. Mellon Elementary School building beginning Monday, August 31.

Additionally, the District has received concerns regarding indoor air quality in our other school buildings, including Ligonier Valley Middle School and Ligonier Valley High School. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, all Ligonier Valley School District buildings will be closed beginning Monday, August 31.

Beginning Monday, professional indoor air quality testing will be conducted in all rooms throughout Ligonier Valley Middle School, Ligonier Valley High School, and Laurel Valley Elementary School. We believe comprehensive testing is the most responsible approach and will provide the District, our families, and our employees with the information necessary to make informed decisions regarding the continued use of these facilities.

Students and staff will return to these buildings only after testing has been completed, the results have been reviewed by our environmental professionals, and the District has received appropriate professional guidance that the buildings are suitable for occupancy. Should testing identify any areas requiring remediation, that work will be completed and appropriate post-remediation testing will occur before those affected areas are returned to use.

Similarly, the R.K. Mellon Elementary School building will remain closed while the additional remediation work is completed. Post-remediation testing will be conducted before any return to R.K. Mellon is scheduled.

We recognize the significant impact that closing all District buildings has on our students, families, faculty, and staff. This is not a decision we make lightly. We also understand that these circumstances may create inconvenience, uncertainty, and concern. However, when it comes to the health and safety of the children and employees entrusted to our care, we believe taking additional precautions is the responsible course of action.

The Board of School Directors and District administration are committed to addressing these concerns thoroughly and transparently. Safety is our greatest priority. We will not rush this process simply for the sake of reopening our buildings. We will rely upon testing, appropriate remediation where necessary, post-remediation verification, and the guidance of qualified environmental professionals in determining when our facilities are appropriate for students and staff to return.

The Ligonier Valley School District will continue to provide families and staff with updates as testing and remediation progress. While all District buildings will be closed on Monday, August 31, decisions regarding school operations for subsequent days will be communicated as soon as possible following consultation with our environmental professionals, remediation contractors, the Board of School Directors, administration, and other appropriate stakeholders. We recognize that families and staff need timely information to plan accordingly, and we are committed to providing updates as soon as we have the information necessary to make responsible and informed decisions.

We are sincerely appreciative of the patience, flexibility, and support our families and staff have demonstrated. We are also grateful to our maintenance personnel, faculty, staff, environmental professionals, and remediation contractors for their continued efforts on behalf of our school community.

We know our families are placing their trust in us to make decisions that put students first, and we do not take that responsibility lightly. Thank you for your understanding, patience, and continued support of the Ligonier Valley School District.

As always, if you have questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew Mols".

Matthew Mols
Superintendent
Ligonier Valley School District
339 West Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
(724) 238-5696