



HOLLY W. SAYRE
Superintendent of Schools

April 23, 2025

Dear Chargers,

At dismissal time on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, a student at Carbondale Area Jr./Sr. High School reported finding a single bed bug on their person. Upon inspection, it was confirmed to be a bed bug. First and foremost, we took the report seriously and followed our established protocols immediately. The classroom the student was in was thoroughly inspected, no bed bugs were found. As a precaution, we conducted a deep cleaning and treatment of that room, as well as adjacent classrooms.

We want to emphasize that **there is NOT an infestation at the school**. An infestation would require the presence of multiple indicators, such as shed exoskeletons, rusty-colored blood spots, and a sweet, musty odor- none of which have been found in our building.

It is important to understand that reports like this can occur in any public place- not just at schools- and are not a reflection of cleanliness or health standards. What matters most is how we respond. I want to assure our community that our response was swift, responsible, and aligned with best practices to protect the health and safety of our students and staff.

Transparency with our community is a top priority. On April 3 and April 4, 2025, we also reported finding a single bed bug on each date. We understand these reports have led to rumors, misinformation, and miscommunication within the community.

It's important to note that the Pennsylvania Department of Health does **not** recommend excluding students or closing schools in response to bed bug sightings.

Bed bugs are a common pest that can be effectively managed with proper procedures. While we may not always be able to control what is brought into our buildings, we can—and do—control how we respond.

We are taking all the necessary steps to ensure the safety and cleanliness of the school, and at no point should this situation disrupt our students' learning experience. Please know that we continue to closely monitor the situation, and we will provide updates if the situation changes.

Carbondale Area School District appreciates your continued support.

With Charger Pride,

Holly W. Sayre
Superintendent of Schools
Carbondale Area School District