# Background

**INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

**PRE-OCCUPANCY ASSESSMENT**

**Converse Middle School**

**234 Converse Street**

**Palmer, Massachusetts**

**Front view of Converse Middle School in Palmer
**

Prepared by:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Bureau of Environmental Health

Indoor Air Quality Program

September 2018

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| Building: | Converse Middle School |
| Address: | 234 Converse Street, Palmer, Massachusetts |
| Requestor: | Josh Mathieu, Health Agent, Palmer Board of Health |
| Date of Pre-Occupancy Assessment: | September 14, 2018 |
| BEH IAQ Staff Conducting Assessment: | Mike Feeney, Director, Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Program |
| Date of Building Construction: | 1922 with an addition in 2005 |
| Proposed use of Building:  Temporary use as a school for students from the Quaboag Middle/High School.  Prior use of Building:  This building was constructed as a school, and was used first as a high school and then as a middle school until it was closed in 2017. | |

# Methods

BEH/IAQ staff performed a visual inspection of building materials for water damage and/or microbial growth and examined the space for the presence of odors or other environmental concerns.

# Visual Observations

The building has unit ventilators for ventilation as well as openable windows. No evidence of active water leaks or other moisture concerns were observed in walls or floors throughout the complex. As reported by Palmer Public Schools staff, the building had a new roof installed in 2012. Some water-damaged ceiling tiles were noted, which were likely due to historic water leaks prior to the roof replacement.

# Recommendations

Based on observations and measurements at the time of the visit, the following recommendations are made:

1. Ensure that new filters are installed in unit ventilators prior to use.
2. Use windows as needed to supplement fresh air supply as needed.
3. Replace water-damaged ceiling tiles, as needed.
4. Refer to resource manual and other related IAQ documents located on the MDPH’s website for further building-wide evaluations and advice on maintaining public buildings. These documents are available at: <http://mass.gov/dph/iaq>.