

## Urbana School District 116

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## News Release

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Date: May 6, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Engineers Complete Inspection of Damaged Urbana High School Auditorium *April Earthquake Played a Factor in Plaster Ceiling Coming Down***

Urbana School District #116 has received an engineers' report regarding the plaster ceiling collapse at the Urbana High School auditorium. The report concludes that the April earthquake played a factor in the ceiling coming down. The earthquake loosened a seam in the ceiling causing it to give way.

"The earthquake in April loosened this seam that wasn't reinforced as properly as it could have been in the original construction in 1914. There's no way we could have known that (the existence of the weakened seam) because it was hidden underneath the plaster and if it hadn't been for the earthquake it would still be up. But we did have the earthquake and we felt the results of that," explains Director of Facilities and Services Ota Dossett.

Dossett says the rest of the high school building is safe. The high school walls and ceilings do NOT contain asbestos. District 116 insurance will cover the cost of the repairs. "We have a deductible, and we are consuming that deductible now," Dossett says.

Workers are cleaning up the fallen plaster in the auditorium and that work should be completed by this Thursday. After the cleanup, Dossett says he'll have a better timeline as to when the auditorium will be ready to host events. "It will probably be a least another couple of weeks until it is in a usable condition," Dossett adds.

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