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**Theresa A. Reynolds**  
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September 28, 2016

Dear Parents,

As you're likely aware, lead in drinking water has been in the news and has become a concern to the public at large. To that end, on September 6, 2016, Governor Cuomo signed into law a bill requiring all school districts and BOCES to test potable water outlets for lead contamination.

The State called for elementary schools to be tested first. We learned today the levels of lead in the drinking water tested from various outlets at the Chester Learning Center, a building we lease from the Chester Union Free School District, were above State standards. I want to be clear that at this point the positive findings are restricted to the Chester Learning Center.

The Health and Safety of your children and everyone in our learning community remains our highest priority and is at the forefront of our decision making. Therefore, our initial response is to turn off water fountains and provide students and staff with bottled drinking water. Additionally, our kitchens will be using bottled water in the preparation of all meals.

We are working with the Chester school district to determine the source of the lead in the water and deciding on a long-term course of action.

We have also scheduled a meeting to share additional information for Tuesday, October 4 in the gymnasium at the Chester Learning Center at 7:00 p.m.

In the meantime, please contact Jack DeGraw, Orange-Ulster BOCES Health and Safety Coordinator, at 845-781-4887 or [jack.degraw@ouboces.org](mailto:jack.degraw@ouboces.org) with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

William J. Hecht  
District Superintendent

cc: Deborah Heppes  
Theresa Reynolds  
Mark Coleman  
Jack DeGraw