Environmental Services Group at SPPS Facilities Department conducted Lead in Water testing in all Saint Paul Public Schools/facilities in an effort to identify the potential drinking water sources with high lead concentrations and provide the District with safe lead free drinking water.

Historically, 20% of the fixtures were tested for lead every year and to be proactive about the health and safety of SPPS students and staff, Environmental Services Group (ESG) tested 100% of the fixtures in all schools/buildings this year.

To test for lead, samples were collected at schools in accordance with EPA and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines. The EPA and MDH has established the guideline for lead in school drinking water of 20 ppb. Samples were collected from all drinking fountains, classroom sinks, restroom sinks, office sinks, all kitchen area sources, all nurse/health area sources and boiler rooms. A first-draw sample was taken from the first water to come out of a fixture that has not been used for at least 12 to 16 hours – typically after sitting overnight unused.

How does Lead get into drinking water?

Lead usually enters drinking water through plumbing materials such as pipes, fountain/fixtures, and solder as a result of corrosion, or wearing away, of materials. Therefore, lead concentrations will vary throughout a water system depending on how new or old the system is. In a school’s water system, lead levels may increase when water in the plumbing system stands overnight, over the weekend, and throughout term breaks when

General Corrective Actions:

Corrective actions refer to both short- and long-term fixes. Short term actions include:

- Running the cold water faucet for 15-30 seconds to flush taps if water has been unused for more than twelve hours.
- Using only cold water for drinking and cooking.
- Cleaning aerators in accordance with regular maintenance schedule.

Permanent measures may include:

- Removing or replacing problem outlets or components.
- Using lead-free materials to repair or replace the facility’s plumbing system.

For more information on lead in drinking water refer to the [link](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/schools/pbschoolguide.pdf).