



Preparing and empowering all students for a successful future

November 18, 2024

Subject: Important Update on Water Testing in Our Schools

Dear Parents and Staff,

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy environment in our schools, the Department of Health recently conducted water testing for lead across all our district buildings. While most fixtures tested were within acceptable ranges, ten fixtures across various locations required remediation. Of these, only two will remain on. These two will not be available for consumption purposes.

Here are the key findings:

- High School: Of the 36 fixtures tested, three sinks were found to have slightly over the acceptable lead levels. All drinking fountains passed without issue.
- Middle School: All drinking fountains passed without issue.
- O'Keefe Building: Four sinks with connected fountains showed elevated lead levels and were immediately turned off.
- Virginia Grainger: Three locations – an office area sink, a resource room sink, and the baseball concessions sink—had slightly elevated lead levels and have been shut off.

We are taking the following actions:

1. Immediate Remediation: All affected fixtures will be replaced as part of our initial response, as this usually remedies the issue.
2. Temporary Measures: For any locations where fixtures have been turned off, temporary, portable, filtered water stations are being rented and will be available for staff and student use.
3. Retesting: Once replacements are installed, all fixtures will be retested to ensure they meet safety standards before being placed back into service.
4. Grant Application: We are actively applying for a state grant to cover the costs of remediation. Regardless of the grant process, the repairs and remediation will take place.
5. Official Written Action Plan: An official action plan is mandated by the state because fixtures tested above allowable amounts of lead. When this is available, it will be presented in a public meeting and will be open to public comment.

The detailed letter and test results from the Department of Health are available for your review on our website under the “District Office” page and then click on the “Facilities” page.

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Please rest assured that we are handling this situation with the utmost care and urgency. Changing out the old fixtures for new ones normally fixes this particular issue. Before any of the fixtures will be allowed to be used again, the water will be tested again to ensure it is safe for consumption. Ensuring the safety of our students and staff is our highest priority, and we are committed to addressing this issue swiftly and transparently.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we work to resolve this matter.

Sincerely,



Steve Quick
Superintendent

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