



Goldendale School District #404

Dr. Ellen Perconti, Superintendent **Dean Schlenker, Business Manager**
604 E. Brooks St., Goldendale, WA 98620, phone (509) 773-5177, fax (509) 773-6028

Lead in water family communication

Dear Goldendale School District Families

As part of our ongoing commitment to student safety, we want to update you on recent water testing conducted in our schools. Washington state law requires lead testing in drinking water for all K–12 public schools built before 2016, and Goldendale has routinely tested our water, with results consistently below required levels. This year, the Department of Health (DOH) conducted additional testing on all water faucets in our schools, not just those used for drinking or food preparation.

Some faucets showed lead levels above the state's stricter threshold of five parts per billion (ppb), which is more conservative than the EPA's standard of 15 ppb. As soon as we received the results, we took immediate action—shutting off affected water sources or designating them for handwashing only.

We are working closely with the DOH to implement a remediation plan, which includes replacing plumbing and fixtures over spring break to further ensure water quality. While lead exposure can come from various environmental sources, research shows that school drinking water alone is unlikely to cause elevated lead levels in the body. High levels of lead in children may cause behavior and learning problems, slow growth, and anemia. As such, we are committed to reducing exposure wherever possible.

We appreciate your support as we take these steps to maintain a safe learning environment. GSD posts water tests and mitigation plans on this webpage: <https://www.goldendaleschools.org/departments/maintenance>. More information can also be found at doh.wa.gov/lead. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to either Dean Schlenker or Ellen Perconti.