



North Tonawanda City School District
Jeffrey Jachlewski, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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January 12, 2025

Dear Drake Elementary School Parent/Guardian,

As a district, we are committed to the safety and education of all our students, and we also want to clearly communicate with parents and staff about our learning environment.

The North Tonawanda City School District is in compliance with regulations issued by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) requiring all school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to test potable water fixtures used for drinking or cooking purposes for lead contamination, to remediate contamination, and to notify parents of children and the public of test results. Levels of lead at any water outlet above 5 parts per billion (ppb) require action to remediate this issue and trigger notification requirements. 2022 revisions to the Public Health Law (PHL) reduced the lead action level in drinking water from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb and reduced the compliance testing cycle to a triennial (every 3 years) schedule. The first compliance testing period is 2023-2025 under the revised PHL.

As required, the North Tonawanda City School District tested all water sources required to be tested in every school building per NYSDOH regulations. Non-applicable outlets such as bathroom sinks and tempered outlets (blended hot/cold) that are not required to be tested have been identified with appropriate signage stating "Hand washing only. Not for drinking use".

Consistent with regulatory requirements, first draw water samples were taken after letting the water remain motionless in pipes for a minimum of 8 hours and a maximum of 18 hours.

I am writing to share the initial results we received for testing at Drake Elementary School.

In total, 19 samples were collected at Drake Elementary School with 2 samples exceeding the threshold of 5 ppb, as follows:

Sample	Location	Fixture	Remediation
118.1-1	Prep Sink	Sink	5.2 add Filter
118.1-2	3 Bay Sink - dishwashing	Sink	13.1 Label Sink

In response to the receipt of these test results, the water outlets that exceeded the testing level have immediately been taken out of service. We have developed a remediation plan that was approved and guided by experts in the field of water remediation (this is noted in the last column on the chart). Sources will be put back into service and available for drinking or cooking after the sources are fully mitigated, re-tested and meet NYSDOH Standards.

The water testing results are available on the District website at www.ntschoools.org under Department/Buildings and Grounds. For more information about water quality and sampling for lead you may want to contact the Niagara County Department of Health at 716-278-8588. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. James Hart, NTCSD Director of Facilities, at 716-807-3517 or email, jhart@ntschoools.org.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Jachlewski

Superintendent of Schools