



## BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Home of the Bears*

December 15, 2025

Good morning GES families and staff,

Last Wednesday, December 10, 2025, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) hosted an informational public meeting regarding the former Boyertown Landfill HSCA Site to discuss the DEP's investigation of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water throughout the region surrounding the former landfill.

*PFAS are a large group of thousands of man-made chemicals, known as "forever chemicals," used since the 1950s for their resistance to heat, water, grease, and stains in products like non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing, food packaging, and firefighting foams, but they are persistent and can build up in the environment and human bodies, posing recently realized health risks. \*Source: The Pottstown Mercury and the Reading Eagle article: Toxic chemicals found in Gilbertsville Elementary School's water"*

A recent article published in both the *Pottstown Mercury* and the *Reading Eagle* featured the latest federal standards regarding PFAS. Those standards, to be implemented by 2031, require PFAS at 4.0 parts per trillion (PPT).

BASD is regulated by the PA DEP standards, which were set in 2023 regarding PFAS. Those standards require entities to maintain a running annual average of 14.0 (PPT) PFAS. Subsequently, in 2024, the PA DEP incorporated the same federal standards outlined above – 4.0 (PPT) PFAS by 2031. Gilbertsville Elementary (GES) was featured in the article, with an accurate running annual average of 6.7 (PPT) PFAS.

BASD contracted with Suburban Water Technology, Inc. in July 2025 to oversee operations of testing and compliance regarding the district's water supply. To date, their review of the running annual average of the GES water supply complies with the PA DEP water supply standards for PFAS at 14.0 (PPT). BASD remains committed to safety in all areas, including water safety, and has partnered with Suburban Water Technology, Inc. in developing a water safety plan that will continue to proactively lower our running annual average PFAS levels to within federal standards.

In January 2026, the district and its Board of School Directors, along with Suburban Water Technology, Inc., will discuss and recommend a remediation plan for GES to lower the PFAS levels to the federal standards as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Davidheiser, Superintendent

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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