Adopted: 12/4/2025

Updated: 5/31/2026

Mercer Island School District Action Plan: Lead in Drinking Water

Our Commitment

The Mercer Island School District is committed to providing safe, healthy learning environments for all students and staff. As part of this commitment, we have partnered with the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to test and improve drinking water quality across all schools.

Testing Requirements

RCW 28A.210.410 and RCW 43.70.830 require all drinking water outlets in public schools built before 2016 be tested for lead at least once between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2026. Retesting shall occur at least once every five years thereafter. Drinking water sampling and testing must be done in partnership with DOH or contracted through an accredited lab.

Schools Included in This Plan

- Mercer Island High School
- Islander Middle School (100/200/300 Buildings)
- Island Park Elementary
- Lakeridge Elementary
- West Mercer Elementary

The new Islander Middle School building and Northwood Elementary were built in 2016 and do not require testing.

Sampling and Testing Overview

All schools were tested in October 2025 in partnership with DOH, with results received on November 21, 2025.

These efforts align with Washington State requirements (RCW 28A.210.410 and RCW 43.70.830), which ensure that school drinking water is regularly tested and maintained for safety.

What We Found

Initial testing identified 24 drinking/cooking water outlets with elevated lead levels above the state action threshold of 5 parts per billion (ppb).

While this may sound concerning, it's important to note:

- Immediate action was taken to protect students and staff with all outlets above 15 ppb promptly removed from service within one day
- A clear and proactive plan was put in place to resolve all identified issues

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Immediate Actions (Mitigation Measures)

To ensure safety right away, the district implemented the following:

- Any outlet exceeding 15 ppb was shut off immediately (November 21, 2025)
- All affected fixtures have been replaced with new, compliant fixtures
- These replacements are permanent solutions, completed December 2025

These steps ensure that no unsafe water sources remain accessible.

Remediation Plan

The district is taking a long-term, solution-focused approach:

- All 24 identified outlets have been fully remediated
- Fixture replacements were selected as the primary solution to eliminate potential sources of lead
- Work will continue through 2026

Post-Remediation Testing

To confirm that all improvements were effective, follow-up testing occurred:

Date: April 29, 2026
Conducted by: DOH

Testing included:

- Mercer Island High School: 2 outlets
- Island Park Elementary: 7 outlets
- Lakeridge Elementary: 4 outlets
- West Mercer Elementary: 10 outlets

This step confirms all drinking water outlets meet the safe standard of 5 ppb or below.

Note: Fixtures with elevated lead levels were re-tested on April 29, 2026. Results were received on May 21, 2026 for all schools except Lakeridge Elementary, whose results were received on May 29, 2026.

All re-tested fixtures passed except for one location at Lakeridge Elementary. This fixture has been taken out of service and will undergo additional remediation. Once remediation is complete and follow-up testing confirms acceptable lead levels, the testing results spreadsheet will be updated and our community will be notified.

Note: Islander Middle School had one failed outlet; however, it was not a potable water source and did not require retesting. A “Non-Potable Water – Do Not Drink” sign has been posted at the location.

Communication with Our Community

We believe transparency is essential. The district will:

- Continue annual communication until all outlets test below 5 ppb.
- Provide clear information about progress and results

Collaboration

The district is working closely with:

- DOH for guidance and testing

Contact Information

For questions or more information, please contact:

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Closing Note

The Mercer Island School District is taking thoughtful, thorough steps to ensure that all drinking water in our schools is safe. Through proactive testing, immediate action, and long-term improvements, we are committed to maintaining a healthy environment for every student and staff member.

Past Testing was conducted in 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2021.

To see the specific testing information go to the MISD Water Quality Testing page.