



Dear DPS families,

Denver Public Schools and Denver Water are partnering in a proactive effort to sample drinking water in all DPS buildings to ensure it meets Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines for schools. In recent months, there have been a number of news stories about high lead levels in school drinking water. Lead isn't present in the water Denver Water sends to our schools, but lead can get into water as it moves through lead-containing plumbing and fixtures. **While we do not have evidence at this time that our schools have elevated levels of lead in their water supply, the safety of our students and staff is our top priority.**

This week, on Aug. 23, we began our effort to sample the water in drinking fountains, kitchen food prep sinks, lounge sinks and any other fixtures used for drinking water in all DPS school facilities. Gathering samples for testing is taking place before the start of the school day. We plan to complete sampling of all elementary schools by the end of October and all remaining schools by the end of the year. Analysis of the water samples will not be available for some weeks after that.

At the same time, we will be doing separate testing in our buildings built before 1955 to determine if they have lead in their pipes carrying water, which we would then prioritize for replacement with bond funds. We do have a number of older schools and this makes it more likely we will have lead levels close to or above EPA recommendations. If so, we will inform our families and staff and move quickly to remediate the issue.

The EPA recommends action should be taken if lead levels in schools are over 20 parts per billion. We are using the lower number of 15 parts per billion as our level for making change. One part per billion is equivalent to a single drop of water in 55,000 gallons.

No fixture will remain in operation if the lead level is at or above 15 parts per billion. Remedies may include fixture replacement, adding water filters and/or other plumbing projects. Alternative sources of water may be supplied to schools if needed.

We anticipate testing will generate more than 3,000 water samples. Denver Water is providing bottles for sample collection and is also conducting the laboratory analysis for all water samples. As test results are completed, we will share them with you, our families and community, by phone or letter. We also will make the results available online at leadtesting.dpsk12.org.

If you have any questions about the testing or results as we receive them, please reach out to your school leader or to the Communications Office at office_communications@dpsk12.org. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,
Trena Deane
Executive Director
Facility Management