



RESULTS OF WATER TESTING FOR LEAD CONTENT

Presented to the Board Of Education
Square Watson, Deputy Superintendent of Operations
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INTRODUCTION



- In response to national events and increased awareness, Saint Louis Public Schools (SLPS) authorized Environmental Consultants, LLC (EC) to perform lead testing of water sources throughout active school buildings within the District on March 2, 2016.
- Sampling was performed by trained and licensed personnel in accordance with Federal, State and local regulations. EC is licensed by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) as a Lead Abatement Contractor authorized to perform water testing services and has been with the District since 2007.

BACKGROUND



- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulates the nation's drinking water in public water supplies (PWS) under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).
- The USEPA estimates that approximately 10,000 schools and childcare facilities maintain their own water supply. USEPA further estimates approximately 90,000 public schools are not regulated under the SDWA – this includes SLPS. As a proactive approach to protecting students and staff, SLPS voluntarily agreed to test drinking water sources at all active schools for lead content.

METHODOLOGY, REPORTING, AND ALLOWABLE STANDARDS



- Sources of potable water that may be used as drinking water by students and staff within all active school buildings were sampled for lead content. Potential sources include drinking fountains and sinks. Sinks associated with kitchens and teacher lounges were included during sampling.
- The sampling timeline was prioritized to address children under the age of seven (7). The first areas to be tested were the Parent Infant Interactive Programs (PIIP) at Roosevelt and Vashon. The Early Childhood Centers at Stix and Wilkinson followed the PIIP facilities. Upon completion, the elementary schools, middle schools and high schools were then tested.
- All samples were collected on a “first draw” basis. “First draw” is achieved by allowing the water system to rest for at least six hours prior to sampling in order to collect any existing debris or settlement within the sample. The intent of this sampling is to replicate “worst case scenario” conditions.

METHODOLOGY, REPORTING, AND ALLOWABLE STANDARDS



- After collection, samples were immediately delivered to Teklab, Inc. located in Collinsville, Illinois following strict chain of custody procedures. Teklab is a NELAP and State of Missouri accredited laboratory specializing in drinking water analysis. Certifications are available on request.
- The USEPA action level for lead in drinking water is 15.0 ppb for PWS. The USEPA document titled “Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Child Care Facilities” last updated November 9, 2015 identifies an action level for drinking water collected from a plumbing fixture as 20.0 ppb. As a precautionary measure to ensure public safety, SLPS has set an internal action level of 10.0 ppb.
- The stricter action level set forth by SLPS is intended as a screening tool to allow the facilities team to better proactively manage water sources within their buildings. As corrosion of plumbing lines is an ongoing concern, utilizing a stricter internal action level allows the facilities team to focus on faulty systems before they deteriorate into major problems.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS 2022



- ❑ In 2016 and 2019, the District sampled drinking water sources as part of its Risk Management program at all active school buildings. Approximately 7 percent of the 900 water sources district-wide required remediation.
- ❑ Follow up retesting of select water sources (i.e. water sources that required remediation) were conducted in the Summer 2021 and all drinking water sources were scheduled for testing in 2022.
- ❑ No drinking water source will be available for public use until sample results meet SLPS expectations.
- ❑ 2022 test results indicated the following:
 - ❑ Total number of active school buildings: 66 (+6 admin buildings)
 - ❑ Total number of water sources tested: 1,375
 - ❑ **All water sources passed.**

CONCLUSION



- ❑ 2016 was the first year we conducted lead water testing. As a result, we had 88 water sources to fail requiring them to be retested every year.
- ❑ In 2019, during our 3-year inspection of all buildings, we had 64 failed water sources. Out of the 64, only 3 were repeat failures from 2016.
- ❑ In 2021, we retested all 64 water sources and 9 failed. Of the 9 failed water sources, repairs were made to all 9. As of today, all water sources have been retested and returned to service after passing.
- ❑ **In 2022, we had 0 failures. All water sources passed.**



QUESTIONS?