



Binghamton City School District

Christopher Columbus School
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(607) 762-8100
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October 6, 2016

Re: Results of State Mandated Water Testing for Lead

Dear Community Member,

The Binghamton City School District is committed to providing a safe, secure learning environment for our students. In the beginning of 2016, we retained the services of Jennings Environmental Management, Inc. to conduct testing for lead in the drinking water. This testing strictly complies with the newly released New York State Department of Health regulations regarding lead testing in school water supplies.

The new state regulations require that an "action plan" be developed for any outlet where lead levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb) were found. *Outlet* means any water supply (fountain, faucet, etc.) which is used, or may potentially be used, for drinking or cooking. The action plan must spell out any remedial steps the district plans to take to reduce the levels of lead at those particular outlets.

According to the Department of Health, a short-term remediation of flushing the actionable outlet for a specific amount of time each day is acceptable during the timeframe when a longer-term solution is under development. Long-term remediation may include replacing the outlet, installing a filter, or taking the outlet out of service. It is worth noting that the New York State Department of Health has adopted a threshold for action which is actually lower than the federal EPA limit of 20ppb.

In 15 district buildings, there were 266 designated water outlets tested. Outlets that are designated as drinking or cooking water sources have been clearly identified. Eighty eight percent of outlets tested were found to be below the NYS threshold for action. Actions taken to outlets that were above the 15ppb included taking 4 outlets out of service, replacing faucets and/or filters at 4 outlets and were found to be below the NYS actionable Level when retested. 25 outlets are now being flushed daily for a specific period of time and have been found to be below actionable levels when tested after flushing. Flushing these particular faucets daily is a short-term solution, which has been deemed acceptable by the NYS Department of Health.

A copy of our test results is available on our website, along with the required Lead Remediation Plan. If you would like more information, you can find a copy of the EPA guidance at:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/toolkit_leadschools_guide_3ts_leadschools.pdf

Providing A Rich Environment for Quality Learning

You may also contact Mario Lisi, Director of Facilities at lisim@binghamtonshools.org or call Craig Hebdon, Senior Public Health Engineer for the Broome County Health Department, 607-778-2863.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonia Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Tonia Thompson, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools