

# Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District

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To the Parents and Staff of Soule Road School Elementary School,

Since 2016, the District has participated in a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) program entitled the Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) in order to detect and reduce lead and copper in school drinking water. The purpose of this letter is to communicate recent water testing results at Soule Road Elementary and to outline what actions The HWRSD is continuing to take to reduce potential exposure to lead and copper in our school drinking water. The District has been and continues to be compliant with all water testing requirements set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) per the Lead and Copper Rule enacted in 1991.

Scheduled samples of drinking water were taken at Soule Road on February 15th. Results from this round of testing showed that 10 locations exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's action threshold. The standards for lead and copper in drinking water are set by the EPA. The EPA action levels are .015 mg/L for lead and 1.3mg/L for copper, which is equivalent to 15 parts per billion (ppb) and 1300 ppb respectively. Standard testing protocol calls for two samples taken from each fixture. The first sample is a stagnant test, taken after the water has been sitting undisturbed for at least eight hours, and the second sample is taken after a 30 second flush of the fixture. After a 30 second flush, none of the fixtures sampled exceeded the EPA action levels.

The District considers the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff a top priority. In line with this objective The District has taken a number of measures with regards to drinking water in the last three years. These actions to remediate levels of lead and copper at Soule Road include removing classroom bubblers, installing new water fountains and bottle fillers, precautionary flushing of water used in cafeteria food preparation, and instructing staff to direct students to water fountains rather than a classroom faucet when a drink is desired.

To continue efforts to remediate these exceedances, all classroom faucets will be labeled for hand washing only. Additionally, staff will be reminded again that students should take their drinking water from the water fountains and bottle fillers in the school hallways. These water fountains are less than three years old and have all tested under the lead and copper limits outlined above. Future actions to address these exceedances will include either replacing classroom plumbing fixtures or removing the fixtures from service.

Testing results, actions taken, information on lead and copper in drinking water, and additional water quality resources can all be found on the District website as well as the Soule Road website.

Sincerely,

Albert G. Ganem, Jr., Superintendent

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me @ [aganem@hwrds.org](mailto:aganem@hwrds.org)

**A Reminder from the Massachusetts DEP:** The water systems at our schools are not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures, especially, can contacting lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter tap water. Plumbing systems also contain copper. If you have any questions about lead or copper in your home's water supply, and are using a private well, you can have your water tested. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e., if you pay a water bill), you can call your local water department for information or check the Consumer Confidence Report sent out by the public water supplier annually.