



Southfield Public Schools Completes Water Testing at All Buildings

May 11, 2016

Dear SPS Parents, Staff and Community Members,

Southfield Public Schools (SPS) recently received the results of its voluntary water screening, sampling, and analysis for lead and copper conducted April 23, 2016. Like many school districts across the state, SPS wanted to be proactive in protecting its students and staff.

Multiple first-draw* water samples were taken from representative drinking fountains and sinks throughout each building to ensure a reliable indication of water quality. The samples were sent to a state-certified laboratory for analysis. Of the 67 water samples tested in the district's 17 schools and facilities, only four (5.97%) of the test samples were above the action point level indicated by the Environmental Protection Agency. We are happy to report that none of our facilities tested above the action point level for copper.

The district re-tested the four sites with readings above the recommended levels on May 10 by conducting flush** samples in accordance with EPA guidelines. The test will determine how lead may be entering the location. If the second round of testing shows levels that are still above EPA guidelines, SPS will apply appropriate remedies to reduce lead levels.

The EPA lead action point level is 15 ug/L. The copper action level is 1,300 ug/L. Below are the locations with initial readings above the EPA lead action level:

School	Location	Lead EPA Action Level ug/L	Lead Results ug/L	Copper EPA Action Level ug/L	Copper Results ug/L
Birney	2 Compartment Kitchen Sink. <i>This sink is not utilized for food preparation.</i>	15	31	1,300	690
JWE	Men's Breakroom Bathroom Faucet	15	130	1,300	920

Southfield High School/ University High -outside room 102	Fountain	15	130	1,300	490
Southfield High School/ University High -outside room 117	Fountain	15	18	1,300	270

**A first-draw sample is a sample of water that has stood motionless in the plumbing pipes for at least eight hours and is collected without flushing the tap. Collections are made as the water source is turned on after having been unused overnight. **Flush samples are taken after water has been turned on and running at the source for the appropriate length of time according to EPA guidelines. These samples are recommended by the EPA to determine how lead is entering the location and determine appropriate corrective actions if needed.*

The following steps are being taken to ensure student and staff safety:

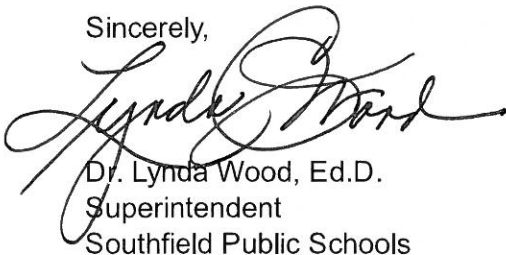
- Signage has been placed in the men’s bathroom faucet at JWE instructing that the water is not suitable for drinking.
- The sink at Birney is not used for food preparation and has been put out of commission.
- The drinking fountains at Southfield High School/UHSA have been put out of commission.
- The results of the testing were shared at the May Board Meeting and are being shared with families, principals and staff, as well as on SPS’ website and TV-16.

Next Step

The district conducted a second round of follow-up flush testing on May 10, as recommended by the EPA to determine how lead is entering each location. Corrective actions to reduce the exposure to lead will be taken at fountains and sinks with lead levels above the action point.

The district will continue to update our community as we move forward. This is one more component of our overall health and safety plan. We appreciate your continued partnership as we work together to provide a safe and secure learning environment where everyone learns, every day.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lynda Wood, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Southfield Public Schools