



BRANDYWINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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LINCOLN HOHLER
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November 11, 2022

Dear BSD Families,

I want to share an update regarding the testing of water in schools. As you know from our previous communication, the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) and the Division of Public Health (DPH) are working with their federal partners at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on testing for lead in drinking water.

As we shared in October, after working with DDOE and DPH through two rounds of testing, it was determined that only one fixture at Mount Pleasant High School (a prep sink) needed a remediation plan. We immediately followed the recommended actions for that single fixture.

The EPA's published and widely accepted threshold for required action for lead in drinking water of 0.015 mg/L has been the standard for years. The EPA has been developing new guidance and thresholds recently, and we may be among the first to face the revised threshold for action. Yesterday, districts throughout the state were informed that a new threshold for action of 0.0075 mg/L was being applied retroactively to the testing performed in 2021 and 2022.

For our district, the EPA use of the revised threshold identifies ten fixtures previously deemed acceptable for consumption, now in need of remediation. Most of the newly identified fixtures are not drinking water sources (e.g., hand sinks in science rooms, restroom sink, classroom sink, etc.).

It's important to understand this does not indicate an increase in lead levels in the water. Out of an abundance of caution, we are shutting off the supply valves to these ten fixtures while we await further guidance from the EPA and DDOE/DPH. We will be sure to share any additional information we learn with our families.

Respectfully,

Lincoln Hohler
Superintendent