



DRYDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 9, 2017

Dear Freeville Elementary School Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community, Dryden Central School District tests our schools' drinking water for lead. I had previously sent a letter to the entire District regarding results; however, we now have the last set of test results.

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At very high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

To protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that schools and day care facilities test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), EPA recommends taking action to reduce the lead.

Is Our School Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our schools' drinking water is safe. Dryden Central School District tested our drinking water for lead. Of the 77 water samples we tested in this last set of tests, only 4 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. In other words, 94.81% of the water outlets tested did not have any lead problems. The sources that had the higher readings were not drinking water sources.

The first and second outlets with elevated lead levels were sinks in the bathrooms in the Principal's and Secretary's offices at Freeville. These are not student accessible areas, the staff members have been cautioned, the sinks have been labeled as non-potable water, and we will be retesting as we feel the slightly elevated rates was caused by low use in these bathrooms.

The third outlet with elevated lead levels was in the Nurse's Office at Freeville Elementary School. The Nurse indicated that she does not allow students to drink from this faucet as the drinking fountain is very near. The Nurse has been cautioned, the sink has been labeled as non-potable water, and we will be retesting as we feel the slightly elevated rate was caused by low use.

The fourth outlet with elevated lead levels was in Kindergarten room #6 at Freeville Elementary School. The sink has been labeled as non-potable water, and we will be retesting as we feel the slightly elevated rate was caused by low use.

How Can I Learn More?

You can see a copy of all of our water testing results at the school district's central office, which is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and on our Web site (www.dryden.k12.ny.us) under "District – SED Plans." For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Rob Medeiros, Director of Facilities, (607) 844-8694, ext. 9241. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.

Sincerely,

Sandra R. Sherwood
Superintendent of Schools

C: Board of Education
Administrators
Rob Medeiros, Director of Facilities

"Promoting Academic Achievement and Youth Development"