



**West Orange Public Schools**  
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**Superintendent of Schools**

**Mr. Jeffrey Rutzky**

April 22, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This notice is to inform you that the district has hired Agra Environmental & Laboratory Services to test the water in our schools for lead. They will be testing any potential drinking water location, which includes water fountains and sinks in classrooms, kitchens, faculty rooms and health offices. The testing will occur in each school, the central office and the bus depot on the weekends as the test results are more accurate when water is stagnant for at least 8 hours.

Water sampling will begin this weekend and is anticipated to be completed by Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. The district and Agra will follow the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) guidelines, the 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools. Please click on the link for more information.

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/toolkit\\_leadschools\\_guide\\_3ts\\_leadschools.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/toolkit_leadschools_guide_3ts_leadschools.pdf)

After water samples are collected, Agra laboratories will test the water for lead levels and provide a report with the results for each water outlet. When the process is completed, results of the water testing will be made available to the public.

Please know that water testing is not required in schools; however, the Board of Education and I feel strongly about making sure the water is safe for our students and staff. For your information, during the 2014-2015 school year, the water was tested in Roosevelt and Edison Middle Schools as part of an established district-wide cycle. The results indicated that all water outlets met the USEPA guidelines, 15 parts per billion (15ppb) except for one fountain in Edison. We immediately closed the fountain, replaced it with a new fountain and filter, and had the fountain retested. The results of the retest were below the EPA requirements.

The Division of Water Supply & Geoscience now has information available regarding [lead in drinking water](#), specific to Consumers, Schools and Childcare Facilities, and Public Water Systems. The information provided on these pages is intended to offer guidance on how to determine whether lead is present in drinking water, to remediate if lead is found, and to reduce exposure. Please click on <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead.html> or copy the link into your browser to access this guidance.

A special thank you to Assemblyman John McKeon and his staff for their assistance in helping with the water testing process.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Rutzky  
Superintendent