

BUTLER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
High School Annex
Butler, New Jersey 07405

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Dear Butler School Community:

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community, Butler School District is testing our schools' drinking water for lead.

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 20 parts per billion (ppb), EPA recommends taking action to reduce the lead. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection recommends taking action to reduce the lead at any water outlet at levels above 15.5 parts per billion (ppb).

Is Our School's Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our schools' water is safe. Butler School District tested our drinking water for lead. Of the 102 water samples we tested, 9 showed lead levels above the 15.5 ppb mark. In other words, more than 91% of the water outlets tested did not have any lead problems.

At Aaron Decker School, all outlets tested showed lead levels below the 15.5 ppb. At Richard Butler School, there were seven outlets with lead levels above 15.5 ppb. At Butler High School, there were two outlets with lead levels above 15.5 ppb. When we found lead levels above 15.5 ppb at water outlets, we made sure no one used those outlets and shut them down.

Lead was often used in plumbing materials until it was banned in 1986. We will be replacing four water fountains with new lead free fountains, and shutting down five water outlets. Then we will test the water again and determine if the problem is fixed.

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 4:00 pm) and on our Web site at (butlerboe.org). For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Mr. Mario Cardinale, Interim Superintendent at Butler Public Schools (973) 492-2025 ext. 6511. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.

Sincerely,

Mario Cardinale
Superintendent of Schools