



DATE: March 10, 2025

TITLE: Review of Lead-in-Water Initial Testing and Retest Reports

TYPE: Informational

PRESENTER: Todd Lechtenberg, Executive Director of Finance and Operations

BACKGROUND: Minnesota Statute 121A.335 requires public school buildings serving pre-kindergarten through grade 12 to test for lead in potable water fixtures every five years. The 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Toolkit (2018) and the Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) of 1988 were created by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify and reduce lead in drinking water. Lead is a metal that usually enters drinking water through the distribution system, including pipes, solders, faucets, and valves. Lead content in water may increase when the water is allowed to sit undisturbed in the system. Exposure to lead is a health concern.

The EPA recommends taking action when elevated lead levels are noted in water fixtures. The MDH and MDE recommend taking a fixture out of service if levels are 20 parts per billion (ppb) or higher. Legislation taking effect July 1, 2024, will require remediation for lead concentrations of 5 ppb or higher. The MDH and MDE also recommend acting according to their guidelines for fixtures with levels of 2 parts per billion ppb or higher.

RATIONALE:

At the request of Austin Public Schools, IEA collected 250 water samples from identified potable water sources on March 29th, 2024, for lead analyses from the following buildings:

- Austin High School- 66 Samples
- Annex Building- 17 Samples
- Banfield Elementary- 23 Samples
- Ellis Middle School- 28 Samples
- Grounds Garage- 1 Sample
- JJ Holton Intermediate- 37 Samples
- Neveln Elementary- 17 Samples
- Oakland Education Center- 8 Samples
- On-Track Center- 1 Sample
- Sumner Elementary- 12 Samples
- Southgate Elementary- 16 Samples
- Woodson Learning Center- 14 Samples

Austin Public Schools had 16 locations that had water testing results that exceeded 5.0 ppb and are located in this [report](#) on table 1 on page 2. After receiving initial results, we installed NSF/ANSI 42 for lead reduction filter systems on all water lines. We then requested that IEA collect nine (9) water samples on September 25, 2024, in response to previously elevated sample results. According to this [report](#), of the nine (9) fixtures re-tested, seven (7) had lead content below the Minnesota Statute 121A.335 action level of five ppb and two (2) fixtures remained above the action level. Those two areas are located at Sumner Elementary in the kitchen with the Pot filler and Austin High School in the kitchen with the prep sink. These locations have been outfitted with NSF/ANSI 42 filters and were just retested on February 28, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION: For informational purposes.