



Christan Schrader
Director

December 4, 2017

Dear Parents and Staff:

The Black Hawk Area Special Education District (BHASSED) is diligent in ensuring safe and healthy learning facilities for our students. Part of ensuring a healthy learning environment is to make sure our water sources are clean and safe for consumption.

On January 16, 2017, Senate Bill 0550 was signed into law which requires all public and private schools occupied by students in preschool through fifth grade to test for lead in water sources used for drinking and cooking. All school buildings built before January 1, 1987 were required to be tested before the end of 2017. In our District, two buildings met that criteria and have had water sources tested. Buildings built between January 2, 1987 and January 1, 2000 requires testing by December 31, 2018.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set an "action level" for lead in water at 15 parts per billion (ppb). Any water fixtures in our buildings showing lead levels above 15 (ppb) have already been taken out of service. Illinois law follows more stringent guidelines, and thus requires districts to notify parents if lead in water is at or above 5 (ppb). To date, the District has tested the water at both schools, as required by the legislation. Test results in both schools identified levels exceeding 5 (ppb).

BHASSED will be following the Illinois Department of Public Health's guidelines to address the results. In a pro-active and health-minded approach, the District is taking or has taken the following action:

- Shutting down all effected water fountains in schools until remediation. Some fountains will be completely removed.
- Implement a daily flushing protocol for other sinks and water from these faucets will only be used to wash dishes and hands. According to the U.S. EPA, washing hands and even bathing or showering should be safe for children and adults, even if the water contains lead over the U.S. EPA action level. Human skin does not absorb lead in water.

The chart shown in Appendix A lists the specific locations that tested above the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and EPA guidelines. The District is quickly remediating the situation through flushing pipes, replacing fixtures or taking fixtures out of service and is remediating all fixtures yielding a lead level above 5 (ppb). Once the work is complete, water samples will be drawn to re-test at those fixture locations to ensure they meet guidelines for appropriate lead levels.

Water testing results were based on two collected samples. The first collection, or "first draw", is a sample of water collected after each source was unused for at least eight (8) hours but not more than eighteen (18) hours. The second collection, or "flush sample", is a sample of water collected after 30 seconds of flushing. Results are in the chart attached.

The areas of concern have been taken out of service completely until remediation is complete. The remaining water fixtures in these schools that are not listed in the chart have been tested and are clean and safe sources for drinking and washing.

In closing, I want to emphasize the District is striving to ensure both buildings have clean safe drinking water. If you have any questions, please contact us at 309-796-2500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christian Schrader".

Christian Schrader, Director
Black Hawk Area Special Education District

Appendix A - Testing Result for Remediation

School	Location	First Draw (ppb)	Flush Sample (ppb)	Action Taken
Phoenix	Fountain - HS	5.91	3.22	Taken out of service
	Fountain - HS	73.4	4.00	Taken out of service
	HS Girls Bathroom Sink	7.89	2.00	Flush daily for 10 minutes before school
	HS Boys Bathroom Sink	5.52	2.61	Flush daily for 10 minutes before school
Center	Kitchen Prep	11.3	3.41	Flush daily for 10 minutes before school Scheduled to be replaced
	Kitchen Wash	8.31	1.47	Flush daily for 10 minutes before school Scheduled to be replaced
	Fountain - Gym	11.1	6.86	Taken out of service
	Life Skills Sink (north)	6.13	1.57	Flush daily for 10 minutes before school Scheduled to be replaced
	Nurses Sink	7.83	6.50	Taken out of service - will be replaced
	Fountain - Social Work	49.6	28.5	Taken out of service
	Fountain - South Hall (1)	21.7	13.6	Taken out of service
	Fountain - South Hall (2)	7.22	7.67	Taken out of service
	Classroom Sink (Brasmer)	8.85	5	Flush daily for 10 minutes before school Scheduled to be replaced
	Classroom Sink (Wachendorf)	5.56	1.51	Flush daily for 10 minutes before school Scheduled to be replaced
	Classroom Sink (Barton)	6	5.61	Flush daily for 10 minutes before school Scheduled to be replaced
	Classroom Sink (Schnell)	9.56	5	Flush daily for 10 minutes before school Scheduled to be replaced