



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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April 11, 2017

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
School Business Administrators
Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Administrators of State-Funded Early Childcare Facilities

ROUTE TO: Building Supervisors
Principals
Staff Involved with Testing for Lead in Drinking Water

FROM: Robert L. Bumpus, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Services

SUBJECT: Sampling for Lead in Drinking Water

The purpose of this correspondence is to remind all districts and schools of the July 12, 2017 deadline to complete sampling for lead in drinking water in schools, as required in state regulations ([N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1.2 and 12.4](#)).

Rules for Tests Conducted Prior to July 13, 2016. Regulations require that lead testing conducted prior to July 13, 2016 must have been completed in a manner that meets or exceeds the current New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requirements. For organizations that are confident their early testing meets those requirements, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has developed a [waiver request form](#) that can be found on the NJDOE's [lead-testing website](#). Included in the waiver request form is a checklist of the steps required to meet the regulatory requirements. If the testing process did not meet the requirements, all schools will need to be retested. It is critical for school officials to submit waiver request forms as soon as possible so the NJDOE can validate the results. Note that according to district responses on a recently completed NJDOE survey, 172 districts indicated they had completed lead testing prior to the July 13, 2016 adoption of the current regulations and therefore will need adhere to the steps above.

Reimbursement of Testing Costs. A total of \$10 million in state funding was allocated for reimbursement of testing costs. To ensure all eligible districts and charter schools receive proportional reimbursement for testing costs, the NJDOE is waiting to receive all eligible requests. However, according to recent records, only 50 eligible districts and charters schools have submitted reimbursement requests. It is imperative that the NJDOE receive reimbursement requests as soon as possible, so proper and timely reimbursements can be made.

As a reminder, the lead testing and analysis reimbursement program is limited to the cost for the collection of water samples, the cost to complete testing and analysis of the water sample by a New Jersey-certified laboratory, and the delivery of results. Other costs, such as development of the lead sampling plan and any necessary remediation, are not eligible for reimbursement. Reimbursement requests must be submitted with adequate documentation validating these costs, including invoices from the New Jersey-certified laboratory.

The NJDOE will continue to provide school officials with additional information on this important matter as it becomes available, but it is recommended that school officials regularly visit the [NJDOE's lead-testing website](#), as well as [NJDEP's lead-testing website](#), for any updates. School officials with questions about the work that is required should email the NJDOE at LeadTesting@doe.state.nj.us. The NJDOE has resources available to answer questions or to arrange training sessions for small groups of districts.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Kimberley Harrington, Acting Commissioner
Senior Staff
Executive County Superintendents
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Business Officials
Administrators of Nonpublic Schools
NJ LEE Group
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools