



Worcester Public Schools

Worcester, Massachusetts



Office of the Superintendent
Maureen F. Binienda
Superintendent

Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building
20 Irving Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-2493

Tel. (508) 799-3115
FAX (508) 799-3119
biniendam@worc.k12.ma.us

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

On April 26, 2016, Governor Charlie Baker and State Treasurer Deb Goldberg announced that \$2 million from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (MCWT) will fund cooperative efforts to help Massachusetts public schools test for lead and copper in drinking water. The funds, to be used by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), will provide technical assistance to ensure that public school districts can sample the taps and water fountains in their schools, and to identify any results that show lead and copper contamination over the action level.

The Worcester Public Schools applied for and was selected to participate in this voluntary program. All schools will participate in this program.

The program consists of a fairly extensive sample of all taps, faucets, and fixtures used for drinking water and food & beverage preparation in each of these schools. Two samples will be taken in each fixture at these schools and sent to a laboratory for analysis. Once the results are provided to the district, the community will be notified and any necessary technical assistance will be provided to the district by MassDEP. We will also work closely with the city's Division of Public Health and the city's Plumbing Inspection unit of Department of Inspectional Services as may be necessary.

Sampling in schools must occur when the building is in full occupancy but taps being sampled should be inactive for at least six hours (but no more than eighteen hours). It is expected that these samples will be taken at the schools in the early mornings during the next several months.

More information about the Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water program can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/testing-assistance-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water.html>

Once we have a final report on the results of the water testing I will send you an updated notice.

Sincerely,

Maureen Binienda
Superintendent