

# Libertyville Elementary Schools



W. Guy Schumacher, Ed. D., Superintendent

1381 W. Lake Street, Libertyville, Illinois 60048  
(847) 362-8393 Fax (847) 362-3003

December 1, 2017

Dear District 70 Parents and Staff,

This letter serves as a commitment to ongoing safety and well-being appraisals addressed in Libertyville School District 70. As you are likely aware, lead content in drinking water has been an ongoing topic in the news over the last few year. This correspondence provides background information regarding water testing for lead within District 70 schools, and changes instituted within District 70 as a result of recent water testing results.

**As you review the following information, please know that all functioning drinking fountains in District 70 schools have met national standards and are considered safe to drink from.**

## Background:

- In 2016, as a proactive step to confirm student and staff safety, District 70 tested for lead in drinking water fixtures at all District 70 buildings. The results confirmed that all drinking water fixtures tested were under the Environmental Protection Agency's standard for acceptable lead levels (15.0 parts per billion).
- Early in 2017, Illinois passed a law, The Lead in Drinking Water Testing Bill, (Public Act 099-0922) that requires elementary school buildings constructed prior to January 1, 2000, serving 5<sup>th</sup> grade and below, to test the following sources;
  - Drinking fountain and drinking sources in buildings
  - Classroom sinks in classroom under 1st grade (kindergarten and pre-kindergarten)before December 31, 2017, and set a new, stricter threshold of acceptable lead levels (5.0 parts per billion).
- During the fall of 2017, to address safety standards and to comply with regulations, District 70 again tested drinking water throughout **all** district school sites. Aires Consulting, a Division of Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc., completed the in-depth collection and analysis.

## Results from 2017:

- All fixtures considered to be potentially used for drinking water were each tested twice, as prescribed within the guidelines of the law. Water collection occurs in first draw samples after sources were unused for at least eight (8) hours. The second sample at that source is collected after 30 seconds of flushing. The two (2) samples are intended to help identify if any concentrations are originating from the fixture or the potable water piping leading to the fixture.
  - Only 5 of the nearly 150 fixtures measured were above the new Illinois threshold of 5.0 ppb during the first test. Of these 5 fixtures, 4 were sinks and 1 was a drinking fountain.
  - The second test was performed on each of the fixtures after flushing water, a minimum 30 second run, as prescribed within the guidelines of the 2017 law.
  - The results: All fixtures fell below the 5.0 ppb threshold during the second test, confirming each site as meeting the mandatory guidelines.

## What actions has/will District 70 take as a result of these findings?

- As soon as the results were received this year, District 70 analyzed the sites, addressing faucet seals and internal working parts, shut down individual systems and planned for an upgrade of the isolated drinking fountain, by replacing with a new bottle filler model. In addition, supplementary tests of the individual fixtures are scheduled for further data analysis.
  - District 70 is committed to ensuring all fountains register below the 5.0 ppb threshold before allowing use by students and staff.
- Though classroom sinks were put into place for cleaning and not consuming water, District 70 set a goal for every classroom sink to register below the 5.0 ppb threshold during both the first and second sampling each year of testing.
- As an extra precaution moving forward, District 70 has implemented the guideline that students and staff should not drink from classroom sink faucets and signage addressing such will be made for each site.
  - District 70 staff members have been asked to consistently remind students that classroom sinks are to be used for washing hands and cleaning materials only.

A documented summary of evaluated fixtures throughout the district is available. For more detailed background and explanation, including District 70's complete test results, please visit [d70schools.org](http://d70schools.org).

Families, too, are encouraged to have their homes inspected and to follow necessary guidelines for caution and safety. For additional information on lead and drinking water, as well as home water testing, please visit the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

Dr. Guy Schumacher  
Superintendent