



Donnie W. Evans, Ed.D.
State District Superintendent

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All Paterson Public Schools' Staff and Parents:

Safe, caring and orderly schools have been and continue to be a major priority for the Paterson Public School District (PPS). To this end, recent concerns have emerged about the district's water supply and the presence of lead in the water supply at some schools. I wish to provide you updated information on this matter.

- 1) Paterson's municipal testing is conducted by the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) consistent with guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
 - a. It is important to note that water quality sampling within schools has not been required by state or federal law; only the water coming into the building requires an annual water quality analysis which is available from the municipal water supplier (unless a district has its own water well and PPS does not).
 - b. Each household and establishment in the Paterson community receives the PCWC report and all district schools and facilities have copies as well.

- 2) Almost two years ago, the Paterson Public School District employed a new Executive Director for Facilities to manage the Department. During the 2014-2015 school year, one of the district's many facility needs he initially identified was the testing of the district's water. He and his staff engaged a qualified independent firm and conducted tests of the district's water supply in all its facilities.
 - a. The results of the testing found most schools well within the limits established by the Environmental Protection Agency.
 - b. Fifteen school buildings were found to have water outlets or fountains that were above the threshold established by the EPA. Nine of these schools had one outlet above the threshold.
 - c. Water outlets or fountains found to be out of compliance were immediately shut down and/or replaced or repaired. Subsequent testing was done to ensure they were in compliance with EPA thresholds.
 - d. Regretfully, parents of students enrolled in impacted schools did not receive information about the 2014-2015 testing until recently and for this I apologize.

As a result of this situation, the district is currently conducting water quality testing for all schools, and will report the results as well as any follow-up actions or activities to the staff and parents.

Sincerely,

Donnie W. Evans, Ed.D.
State District Superintendent