



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA  
Operations Division  
Office of Environmental Management & Services  
440 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130  
215-400-4750

August 1, 2017

Dear Bethune Elementary School Family,

To guarantee that students have access to safe drinking water at school, from 2000 to 2010, The School District of Philadelphia (District) conducted a water testing program at schools throughout the District. Nearly 30,000 drinking water outlets were tested and all tested outlets that remain in service produced results that were below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) action level for lead in water of 20 parts per billion (ppb) and were safe for drinking.

In response to recent public health concerns about lead in water nationally, the District began retesting drinking outlets in your child's school. Our mission remains to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff and because of this we have instituted a stronger water safety threshold of 10 ppb, which is below the national EPA measurement of 20 ppb<sup>1</sup>.

At your school, 17 of the water outlets passed this stronger water safety threshold and the water is safe to drink. Six water outlets were found to have results above our stronger water safety threshold and were immediately shut off. We are currently developing an action plan to repair or permanently remove them. In addition, we have begun installing hydration stations in schools across the District and by the end of the year we will have hydration stations in every District school.

Federal studies indicate that children under the age of six are at the highest risk for harmful lead exposure, and children can be exposed to lead from a variety of sources, including paint, soil and even some consumer products. If you are concerned about your child's possible lead exposure risks, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) recommends contacting your pediatrician or neighborhood Health Center for testing.

Additionally, PDPH's lead hotline can address any health related questions you may have or help you in deciding whether to have your child tested; for questions or more information, please call (215) 685-2788. For additional information about lead and children you can visit [www.cdc.gov/lead](http://www.cdc.gov/lead).

If you wish to view the detailed results from your school you may visit the District's website at [www.philasd.org/waterresults](http://www.philasd.org/waterresults) to learn more.

This re-testing is one part of the District's Drinking Water Program, also available on our website. A key focus is to provide students with healthy hydration – safe, accessible and appealing drinking water in every school.

Sincerely,

Francine Locke, MS  
Environmental Director

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<sup>1</sup> This letter and the accompanying table have been revised to reflect the more stringent 10 ppb criteria for lead that has been adopted by the School District of Philadelphia. The previous letter was based upon a 15 ppb criteria for lead.

School Name: Bethune Elementary School

Outlet ID #	Outlet Location	Sample Collection Date	Test Result (ppb)	Test Results
7510-00-DW-006	Room 5	7/29/2016	2.4	BA
7510-00-DW-009	Room 1	7/29/2016	6.9	BA
7510-00-DW-012	Room 2	7/29/2016	5.9	BA
7510-00-DW-015	Room 3	7/29/2016	3.8	BA
7510-00-DW-018	Room 4	7/29/2016	64.3	AA
7510-01-WC-022	Outside Room 105	7/29/2016	1.6	BA
7510-01-DW-029	Room 102	7/29/2016	6.3	BA
7510-01-WC-039	By Stairway D	7/29/2016	1.2	BA
7510-01-WC-045	Inside of Cafeteria	7/29/2016	4.3	BA
7510-01-WC-048	Outside of Cafeteria - in main lobby	7/29/2016	1.1	BA
7510-01-WC-055	Outside of Gymnasium	7/29/2016	2.6	BA
7510-01-DW-059	Room 114	7/29/2016	10.2	AA
7510-01-DW-069	Room 111	7/29/2016	12.9	AA
7510-01-WC-076	Across from Room 110	7/29/2016	3.4	BA
7510-01-DW-077	Room 109	7/29/2016	5.0	BA
7510-01-DW-083	Room 106	7/29/2016	4.6	BA
7510-02-WC-086	Top of Stairway B - near Room 210	7/29/2016	0.59	BA
7510-02-DW-091	Room 207	7/29/2016	19.7	AA
7510-02-WC-095	Across from Room 205 - in hall	7/29/2016	0.49	BA
7510-02-DW-105	Room 201	7/29/2016	11.8	AA
7510-02-WC-120	In hallway; near stairs; outside Room 218B	7/29/2016	7.7	BA
7510-02-WC-127	Outside Rooms 216 and 215	7/29/2016	8.0	BA
7510-02-DW-136	Room 212	7/29/2016	11.1	AA

DISTRICT ACTION LEVEL FOR LEAD IS 10 ppb\*

SPREADSHEET LEGEND

BA - Below District Action Level of 10 ppb

AA - Above District Action Level of 10 ppb

\*EPA ACTION LEVEL FOR LEAD IS 20 ppb