

Seattle Public Schools
Drinking Water Quality Improvement Program
2007-2008 Annual Report

The District today issued its first Annual Report for the Drinking Water Quality Program ("Program"). It describes the status of the Program through June 30, 2008. Future reports will be issued each summer.

The District considers student health and safety as a top priority. Over the last several years we have adopted and implemented a set of rigorous standards that have set nationally recognized standards for drinking water quality in public schools.

The program was mandated by the School Board, which adopted a Drinking Water Policy ("Policy") in 2004 in response to parent concerns. The Policy is available at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/policies/e/e10-01.pdf>. The Policy prescribes periodic testing of each drinking water source in each school and other buildings operated by the District, coupled with reporting of results, remediation and sets criteria requiring that bottled water be provided, if necessary, to assure students and staff have ready access to drinking water.

The most important testing criterion is testing for lead. The School Board set the maximum allowable level at 10 parts per billion (ppb), which is one-half the allowable level set by the US Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") for schools. Tests are also conducted of all drinking water sources for cadmium and copper. Each school is tested at least every 3 years.

All results are available on the District's website. For each building they include a summary of current status, test results from prior to 2004 and results of tests since 2004. The link is: <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/ehs/drinkingwater/waterreports.htm>.

Major Accomplishments

Recurring three-year testing was accomplished in 31 schools, with 93% percent of the sources tested passing are all requirements. Standing sample passing rates increased from 60% in 2004 to 94% and flushed sample passing rates increased from 94% in 2004 to 99.6%. These results indicate marked improvement in overall water quality during the last four years.

Piping replacement continued, with another 4 schools receiving major piping work during summer 2007 and 5 more in 2008.

The District continues to be a national leader in school drinking water issues, having published a number of research papers.

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