Seattle Public Schools Water Quality Remediation Plan

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Seattle Public Schools

Water Quality Remediation Plan

Effective Date: 5/19/2026
Responsible Department: Facilities Maintenance
Approved By: Pending Board Approval

Purpose and Scope

Seattle Public Schools (SPS) is committed to protecting the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors by minimizing exposure to lead in drinking water. This policy establishes procedures for identifying, controlling, remediating, and verifying lead concentrations in drinking water fixtures in accordance with Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH) guidance. This plan applies to the following: drinking fountains, bottle filling stations, kitchen fixtures used for food preparation and consumption and classroom sinks used for drinking or cooking.

Authority and Regulatory Framework

This policy aligns with:

- Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH) "3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools"
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 3Ts Guidance
- Safe Drinking Water Act "Lead-Free" Requirements
- Applicable Washington State guidance and recommended action levels (e.g., 5 parts per billion [ppb], or as updated)

Immediate Control Measures

Identification

Fixtures exceeding the applicable action level shall be classified as out of compliance.

Required Immediate Actions

Upon confirmation of exceedance:

- Immediately **shut off access** to the fixture by:
    - Closing supply valves
    - Physically disabling the fixture
    - Securing or capping outlets
- Post signage stating:
  "Fixture Disabled – Contact Maintenance with questions – WO 681089"

Interim Water Access

- SPS shall ensure continued access to safe drinking water via:
    - Bottled water
    - Approved compliant fixtures

Remediation Procedures

Remediation strategies shall be selected based on contamination sources, feasibility, and long-term effectiveness.

Fixture-Based Remediation

- Replacement with NSF/ANSI 61 and 372 certified fixtures
- Installation of point-of-use (POU) filters certified for lead removal
- Cleaning or removal of aerators where applicable

Fixture Removal or Decommissioning

- Permanent removal where fixtures are not needed
- Permanent shutoff where replacement is not feasible

Plumbing System Corrections

Where system-wide issues exist:

- Replacement of pipes, valves, or fittings
- Elimination of dead-legs or low-flow sections

- Re-plumbing of affected systems as necessary

Signage and Fixture Designation

Handwashing-Only Fixtures

fixtures not intended for consumption and permitted for handwashing only shall be labeled: “Handwashing Only – Do Not Drink”

Post-Remediation Testing and Verification

Testing Requirements

Following remediation:

- Conduct sampling consistent with WA DOH protocols
- Utilize first-draw sampling methods

Documentation

SPS shall maintain records of:

- Initial test results
- Remediation actions
- Post-remediation testing
- Maintenance logs (filters and repairs)

Operations and Maintenance

Filter Management

- Maintain inventory and replacement schedule
- Replace filters per manufacturer requirements
- Document all maintenance via the work order system TMA

Routine Testing

- Department of Health will conduct periodic testing (recommended every 5 years or as per regulation)

Communication Requirements

Notification

SPS shall notify stakeholders when:

- Elevated levels are detected
- Remediation actions are initiated or completed

Public Transparency

Testing data and remediation status shall be made publicly accessible here:

Seattle Public School Water Quality Program

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Environmental Health & Safety	Compliance verification
Facilities & Maintenance	Implementation of shutoffs and remediation
School Administration	Site coordination and communication
Contractors	Certified remediation work
District Leadership	Resource allocation

Facilities Constructed or Renovated After 2016

Regulatory Context

Facilities constructed or renovated after 2016 are generally built with materials meeting federal "lead-free" standards and therefore are not subject to the testing requirements under WA DOH guidance.

Continuous Improvement

This plan shall be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to reflect:

- Changes in WA DOH or federal guidance
- Advances in remediation technology

Summary

Seattle Public Schools shall:

- Immediately disable fixtures exceeding lead action levels
- Implement effective remediation (filtering, replacement, or plumbing correction)
- Provide clear signage for non-drinking fixtures
- Verify compliance through post-remediation testing
- Maintain transparent communication and documentation