

# EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY

<http://www.escnj.us>

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Dear School Parents, Guardians and Staff:

The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (“ESC NJ”) is committed to protecting students’ and staff’s health. As required by the Department of Education regulations, all water outlets in our facilities have been sampled for lead.

## Why Test School Water for Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At very high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

Lead is rarely found in the source water; rather it enters the drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the service line or interior plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect buildings to water mains (service lines). Since 1986, all plumbing materials must be “lead free”. The law currently allows plumbing materials to be up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as “lead free”. However, prior to January 4, 2014, “lead free” allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified.

## Actions Taken

Prior to sampling, the ESCNJ developed a Lead Sampling Plan for its facilities and conducted a plumbing profile. The purpose of the plumbing profile was to identify all water outlets and evaluate the plumbing materials of the school to determine if lead solder, lead pipes or a lead service line are present.

Academy Learning Center • Adult Community Services • Bright Beginnings Learning Center • Center for Lifelong Learning • Future Foundations Academy  
• NuView Academy • Pathways to Adult Living • Piscataway Regional Day School • Turning Point Academy

Child Study Team & Related Services • Collaborative Educational Services • Cooperative Pricing – Lease Purchase Bidding • Cooperative Transportation  
Home Instruction • Nonpublic School Services • Children’s Specialized Hospital • Itinerant Services for Children with Hearing Loss • Professional Development Academy

All water outlets in ESCNJ's facilities have been sampled and the results are listed below:

- Academy Learning Center: All results are below action level = 15 ppb
- NuView Academy Annex: Two samples above 15 ppb. All other levels below action level = 15 ppb
- Piscataway Regional Day School: One sample above 15 ppb. All other levels below action level = 15 ppb
- Bright Beginnings Learning Center: All results below action level = 15 ppb
- Center for Lifelong Learning: One sample above 15 ppb. All other levels below action level = 15 ppb
- NuView Academy: One sample above 15 ppb. All other levels below action level = 15 ppb

Actions:

- Outlets testing at or above 15 ppb were labeled "HAND WASHING ONLY" and will be re-tested, as they were sinks not in current use.
- All Lead Water Screening Reports are available in the ESCNJ Business Office, each school building and posted on the Commission's website at: [www.escnj.us](http://www.escnj.us).

How Can I Learn More?

For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact the Business Administrator/Board Secretary at 732-777-9848, x3120. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or refer to the Department of Environmental Protection's website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-schools.html>.

Sincerely,

Business Administrator/Board Secretary