

# Memo

To: Union-Endicott Board of Education

From: Nicole Wolfe, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Elementary Education

Date: 3/30/2016

Re: Drinking Water Analysis - Lead and Copper

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## **Summary:**

In 1991, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water. This regulation is known as the Lead and Copper Rule, where municipalities must periodically test water systems and report high readings. Schools that get their water from municipal systems have no such obligation at this time. Due to recent events in Flint, Michigan and other cities across the country, school districts have started conducting voluntary testing in an effort to ensure the safety of students under their care. This testing is not mandated, although discussions have taken place to introduce a bill that would establish regulations requiring schools to regularly test drinking water.

The Union-Endicott Central School District recently elected to conduct voluntary testing of water sources. Six samples were tested in each of the sites indicated below and compared to the EPA Lead and Copper Rule action levels of 0.015 mg/L for lead and 1.3 mg/L for copper. If a sample indicated a lead or copper level higher than the action level, it was addressed based on the recommendation of the BOCES Safety Specialist, BOCES Director of School Facilities & Operations and the Broome County Health Department. The following are the results of the testing:

- Union-Endicott High School – Five out of the six sites tested were below action levels. One site, which was slightly above level for lead, was flushed and retested. The retest indicated levels below action level. However, the district will continue to retest this site on a monthly basis to ensure accurate readings. The site will also be flushed preventively for three minutes daily and prior to use.
- Jennie F. Snapp Middle School – All six sites tested were below action levels. No further testing needed.
- George F. Johnson Elementary – All six sites tested were below action levels. No further testing needed.

- Charles F. Johnson, Jr. Elementary - Five out of the six sites tested were below action levels. One site, which was slightly above level for lead and copper, was flushed and retested. The retest indicated levels below action level. Since the location of this site is in the boiler room, which is an area that students can't access, no further action is needed.
- Ann G. McGuinness Elementary - All six sites tested were below action levels. No further testing needed.
- Thomas J. Watson Elementary - All six sites tested were below action levels. No further testing needed.
- Linnaeus W. West School - Five out of the six sites tested were below action levels. One site, which was slightly above level for lead, was flushed and retested. The retest indicated levels below action level.
- District Office - Four out of the six sites tested were below action levels. One site, which was slightly above level for copper, was flushed and retested. The retest indicated levels below action level. The site will be flushed for thirty-seconds each morning. The other site was a fountain that has been permanently removed from service.
- Bus Garage – There is only one area at the bus garage that water can be accessed for drinking. The levels at this site were slightly above level for lead and copper. A sign has been added to this faucet to indicate that the water is not intended for human consumption.
- Harvard Street - There is only one area at the Harvard Street building that water can be accessed for drinking. This site was below action levels. No further testing needed.