

CHRONOLOGY OF LEAD IN WATER TESTING PROGRAM

As directed by Superintendent, Dr. R. Stephen Green, the DeKalb County School District will conduct a major lead testing initiative of the drinking water systems in all schools and centers. The initiative is a proactive measure to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff. The district has the full support of the DeKalb County Board of Education.

Water testing for all 150 facilities will start on September 20, 2016, and will be completed by the summer of 2017. The testing schedule has been prioritized based on the age of the school, age of the students (schools with pre-K programs first), the presence of a kitchen where meals are prepared, and other criteria. Remediation plans, to be supported through the General Fund and/or E-SPLOST program, will be implemented if lead is found in any water outlets.

Our Facilities/Operations and Communications Divisions will direct a water testing team that includes contract staff from Atlanta Environmental Management, Inc. (AEM). The AEM resources are being hired under an emergency purchase authorized by the Superintendent. (As required by school board policy, this emergency purchase will be presented to the Board for ratification at the October meeting.)

Here's a chronology of events for our water testing initiative:

- On August 8, 2016, Superintendent Green requested a testing initiative for drinking water systems in the school district in response to a Board inquiry regarding the water quality within our facilities.
- On August 19, 2016, district staff held conversations with DeKalb County Watershed staff. The county organization will support and accompany Atlanta Environmental Management in testing all main water service distribution systems at school sites.
- On August 30, 2016, district staff met with Ryan Cira, Director, Division of Environmental Health at DeKalb County Board of Health. Ryan and his staff support the initiative, and they have provided helpful suggestions and advice on its execution. The school district will use the same vendor to test our water that the Board of Health uses for its testing.
- On August 31, 2016, Dr. Green discussed the water testing initiative with Dr. Sandra Ford, DeKalb County Board of Health Director. She has agreed to collaborate with the district, providing expertise to help guide the initiative.
- On September 7, 2016, Dr. Green discussed the water testing initiative with Interim CEO Lee May, DeKalb County government. He has agreed to collaborate with and support the District in its efforts.
- On September 20, 2016, water testing begins for all 150 school district facilities.

Last year, Chicago Public Schools began testing all its district facilities. We have had several conversations with leaders in that system to learn from their experiences. We will continue to be in contact with that district.

We will provide regular updates on the water testing initiative to the Board and our communities as we move forward.