



## **LEAD IN WATER TESTING**

### **FACT SHEET**

- Superintendent Dr. R. Stephen Green directed the DeKalb County School District to conduct a major lead testing initiative of the drinking water in all schools, centers, and facilities.
- We have absolutely no evidence of water quality issues in any school or building. Rather, this 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, the DeKalb County Board of Health, and DeKalb County Government.
- Water testing for all 150 facilities will begin on September 20, 2016, and will be completed by summer of 2017.
- While all schools will be tested, the initial schools were chosen based upon the age of students (with priority given to schools with pre-K programs) and the age of the facility.
- Lead could enter the drinking water supply when service pipes containing lead corrode. This is most commonly associated with chrome-plated brass faucets or fixtures connected with lead solder leaching into the water.
- The amount of lead in water depends on the temperature of the water, how long the water sits in the pipes, the acidity, and the types of minerals found in the water.
- Buildings built before 1986 are at a greater risk of exposure due to lead being an allowable building material prior to this time.
- Per EPA's Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), EPA's action level for lead in water is set at 15 parts per billion (ppb).
- Atlanta Environmental Management, Inc. (AEM) has been hired under an emergency purchase authorized by the Superintendent to conduct the testing. (As required by school board policy, this emergency purchase will be presented to the Board for ratification at the September meeting.)
- Each water source will be sampled twice. Samples are sent to an EPA Accredited Lead Testing Laboratory daily in accordance with U.S. EPA Method 200.8, with an estimated turnaround time of 10 business days.
- Remediation plans, to be supported through the General Fund and/or E-SPLOST program, will be implemented if the water from any source exceeds the EPA action level.
- The District's testing schedule, testing protocols, copies of all water testing results, and other resources can be found at <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/lead-testing>. The site will be updated regularly as results are received.

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### About DeKalb County School District

The DeKalb County School District is Georgia's third largest school system. Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. R. Stephen Green and the Board of Education, we prepare students for college and careers through a laser focus on rigorous, relevant classroom instruction related to each child's needs. The District serves nearly 102,000 students, 137 schools and centers, and 15,500 employees, including 6,600 teachers. The District's students and parents speak over 140 languages and represent over 180 nations. DCSD is a leader in STEM curriculum with 12 certified schools and programs in more than 90 schools. School choice options are available in nearly 50 schools to include theme, magnet, IB, charter, and Montessori options. For more information, please visit <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org>.

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