

Sullivan West Central School

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Nancy M. Hackett, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools



November 2016

Dear Sullivan West Families and Staff,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To safeguard our community, Sullivan West Central School District tests our schools' drinking water for lead. Sullivan West Elementary School's water source is provided by the Village of Jeffersonville, where our High School in Lake Huntington has an independent well on the property.

In September 2016, a state law went into effect that requires all public school districts to test water for lead. The law requires school districts to sample all water outlets currently or potentially used for drinking or cooking purposes in buildings that may be occupied by students and to submit those samples to a state approved lab for analysis. Regulations call for testing to take place again in 2020 and every five years thereafter, unless the state Commissioner of Health requires testing sooner.

The state established an action level of 15 micrograms of lead per liter, typically referred to as "parts per billion (ppb)." If a sample from a water outlet exceeds this level, schools must take steps to prevent the use of the outlet for drinking or cooking purposes until it is remediated and follow-up testing confirms it is no longer above the action level.

During the week of October 8, 2016 water testing at the SW High School campus was performed. In total, 181 samples were taken and 38 sites had elevated lead levels. These sites included classroom sinks and one hallway water fountain. Following recommendations from the Department of Health, we have posted signs on all locations that failed, notifying everyone not to drink the water. Remediation is ongoing and we plan to retest after the maintenance has been completed.

School districts are required to report the results of all water testing to the state Department of Health, the State Education Department and the local health department, and to post the results—along with remediation plans, if required—on the official district website. You can find the Health & Safety Report in its entirety at www.swcsd.org.

As always, please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy M. Hackett', written over a horizontal line.

Nancy M. Hackett, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

NMH: pll

"...enriching the lives of all students"