



# HEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 2016

Dear Parents,

On September 16, 2016 the New York State Education Department issued emergency regulations requiring school districts to test all of their water sources for lead. Mr. Vona, Director of Facilities completed the testing in all buildings as required. As of this date, we have received the results for three of our four buildings; Union East, the Middle School and Pine Hill Education Center.

The new regulation says that any water source that measures lead over 15 ppb (parts per billion) must be reported to the health department and the affected water sources must be tagged or taken out of service until remediated. Mr. Vona will be in charge of changing the affected fixtures, retesting and certifying that the water source meets compliance.

Of the 392 total fixtures in the district, there are 17 fixtures at Union East, 17 at Pine Hill and 14 shower heads at the Middle School that are over the 15ppb allowable amount. We should have the high school results shortly. Updates to our findings and remedies as they are performed will be posted on our website: <http://www.cheektowagak12.org>/

Keep in mind lead can only be ingested by drinking it, not by washing hands. None of our drinking water sources including all water fountains currently in use had lead levels detected in them that would be of concern, in fact most of them are already filtered, and there was no trace of lead in most fountains.

We have had no reason to believe that our water source is contaminated. We have had a few areas where lead levels have exceeded the EPA's Action Level as have every other school district in WNY. **None of these locations are sources of potable water used for drinking and cooking.** Safety guidelines indicate that we could leave these sinks operational with a "not potable water" notification on them. To be safe though, Mr. Vona has both tagged the affected faucets and disabled them for use.

I assure you that the health, safety and welfare of all in Cheektowaga Central facilities is our number one priority. Even sources that are not intended for drinking (not potable water) will be addressed.

A special thank you to Mr. Vona for his outstanding leadership and work on this project.

Sincerely,

  
Mary A. Morris  
Superintendent