



WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Together for Excellence ★ ¡Juntos por la Excelencia!

312 East Forest Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185
630.293.6000
www.wego33.org

Dear Parents,

This year, the General Assembly passed P.A. 099-0922 which mandates lead testing in school buildings that were constructed before 2000 and are occupied by Pre-k through fifth grade students. The new legislation requires school districts to provide notice of the school building test results to parents. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), action must be taken to minimize exposure to lead if lead concentrations exceed 15.0 parts per billion (ppb). (See <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule>).

The District recently retrained an environmental consultant to collect and test water samples from all nine (9) District Schools. The test results showed that only one (1) source of potable drinking water in the District tested a lead level exceeding 5.0 PPB (the level at which notification is required pursuant to the new Illinois state law). That location was an older drinking fountain located at Turner School which had not been in operation for many years. The District has since removed the drinking fountain.

Although not required, the District also had certain other water fixtures tested that do not fall under the definition of a source of potable water under the new statute. These fixtures included sinks located in classrooms and not used for drinking water. From those tests, the District determined that thirty-one (31) classrooms sinks tested a lead level exceeding 5.0 ppb. Those sinks are located at Currier School (1), Gary School (3), Indian Knoll School (16), Pioneer School (3), and Turner School (8). At this time, the district has labeled all classroom sinks in all schools to be for handwashing only and not for drinking as this is the best practice.

While the District is not required to take any remedial action or replace its water system under the new State law or EPA regulations, the District is voluntarily following the newly created mitigation strategies for lead in public schools published by the Illinois Department of Public Health. More information about these strategies can be found on the IDPH’s website at <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/lead-in-water>. This practice is also compliant with both the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for water exceeding the EPA’s action level of 15.0 ppb. (See <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/sources/water.htm>; <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.) Additional information about lead in drinking water and measures to reduce the lead can be found at both of the websites cited above.

A copy of the district’s testing results are available on the District’s website at [www.wego33.org]. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the District at (630) 293-6000.

Sincerely,

Fred Cadena
Facilities and Grounds Director