



# Entiat School District #127

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[www.entiatchools.org](http://www.entiatchools.org)



*It is the mission of the Entiat School District to provide all students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be productive and responsible citizens.*

Greg Whitmore, Superintendent

Robin Richter, Business Manager

Kami Fidler, HR/Payroll

Britney Quezada, District Secretary

Dear Parents, Students, Staff, and Community Members,

As part of the state's efforts to protect the health of all children, a new law (RCW 28A.210.410 and RCW 43.70.830) was enacted in 2021. This law addresses concerns about lead in school drinking water as part of a broader effort to reduce children's overall exposure to lead in the environment. Once the law was passed, the state legislature directed the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to create protocols and procedures for testing school drinking water.

This letter is to inform you about recent water quality testing conducted at Paul Rumburg Elementary and Entiat Middle and High School. In accordance with Washington State law ([RCW 28A.210.410](#)), the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) collected samples from water fixtures throughout our schools on September 13, 2024. These samples were tested for potential lead contamination in our drinking water. Water samples were collected from all fixtures where it is reasonably foreseeable that it could be used for drinking, cooking or food preparation. These were first draw sample collections. First draw sample collection is where the water is allowed to sit in the plumbing system for 8 to 18 hours prior to the sample being collected. Samples were analyzed by our DOH Public Health Laboratory using [EPA method 200.8](#). Based on lead concentration, the following actions are required by law:

- Fixtures with lead levels of 5 parts per billion (ppb) or less do not require any action.
- Fixtures with lead levels greater than 5 ppb require remediation.
- Fixtures with lead levels greater than 15 ppb must be turned off immediately until remediation is complete.

## What We Found:

The test results were received by the district on October 16, 2024. We had ten (10) fixtures test >15 ppb and two (2) fixtures test with lead levels between 5 & 15 ppb.

- No established drinking fountains/bottle fillers in the district tested as having high levels of lead.
- No positive tests for lead came from the Elementary wing including kitchen, cafeteria, concessions or gymnasiums.
- All positive tests came from the MS/HS wing and involved the in-classroom sinks.

## Next Steps:

We are currently reviewing the test results and working on a remediation plan for any fixtures that exceeded the 5 ppb limit. If any fixtures exceeded 15 ppb, those fixtures have been shut off and will remain out of service until they are fully remediated.

- Consulting: we are working in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Health, Chelan-Douglas Health District, City of Entiat.
- Remediation - could involve any or combination of the following:
  - Shut off outlet or take outlet out of service. – **we immediately shut down all fixtures once we received the results and informed all staff.**
  - Restrict Outlet to specific use(s) only. – **we will place signs at all sinks and faucets that tested high for lead content stating that they are not to be used for drinking, cooking or food preparation.**
  - Replace the fixture – **we will do this as needed and especially if we determine this will solve the problem.**
  - Fixture Conditioning – **we are studying this method to see if it is a viable option.**
  - Install Filters – **we are studying this method to see if it is a viable option.**
  - Replace plumbing – **this may be a long-term necessity and so we will do some further research.**

- Develop an action plan in accordance with WA DOH Action Plan Requirements to address any necessary remediation. This plan will be created in consultation with local health authorities and will be shared with the school community. – **this action plan will be presented at the October 30, 2024 School Board Meeting**
- Communication – notice to staff, students, parents and the community regarding the test results and plan of action. – **staff and students have been notified about the positive test results. More information can be found on our home page at [www.entiatchools.org](http://www.entiatchools.org).**

#### **RESOURCES:**

Information about the health effects of lead can be found at:

- [WA State Department of Health | Lead](#)
- [EPA](#)
- [CDC](#)

#### **Note from the Dept. of Health: Concerns about lead exposure in our children:**

*Children are especially susceptible to lead exposure, particularly those younger than age six. Their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults and are more sensitive to its damaging effects. Even from very low levels of exposure to lead, children may experience lower IQ levels, reduced attention span, hyperactivity, or other harmful health effects that can impact learning, development, and behavior.*

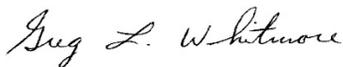
*Children can be exposed to lead from a variety of sources in their environment, such as lead-based paint and its resulting dust from deterioration, drinking water, contaminated soil, and take-home exposure from parents who work in certain industries. Since each source contributes to children's overall lead exposure, it's important to reduce their exposure from every source as much as possible.*

*If parents are concerned about their child's health, they should ask their health care provider for a blood lead test. A blood lead test is the only way to know if a child has high blood lead levels. While drinking water is typically not a main cause of high lead levels in children, it is important to prevent exposure from all potential lead sources. DOH testing programs at schools and childcare facilities help to reduce lead exposure by identifying and repairing water fixtures that test high for lead.*

*You can learn more about lead exposure as well as how to prevent lead exposure here on DOH's website. For additional information, contact DOH at [leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov](mailto:leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov).*

We are committed to ensuring that all drinking water in our schools is safe and will take immediate action as needed. We will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff and will keep you updated as we move forward.

Sincerely,



**Greg Whitmore**  
**Superintendent**

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