



DISTRICT OFFICE

Denise Dzikowski District Superintendent of Schools

October 19, 2016

Dear Community Members and BOCES Employees:

In the past several months, there has been a tremendous amount of coverage in both the national and local news regarding lead levels in drinking water. I am writing to share with you the measures that the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES has taken to ensure that all water used for drinking and cooking at the BOCES is safe for consumption.

The BOCES receives its water from the Town of Aurelius. The Town is required to test and report their water quality results yearly. The latest Drinking Water Quality Report shared with the BOCES indicated that lead levels were well below any action level and not a concern. New state regulations require additional testing in all New York State public schools. The regulations designate the action level for lead in drinking water at .015 milligrams per liter or 15 parts per billion and require schools to take remedial action for fixtures that exceed this action level.

The conversation about testing the lead levels in our water started with the BOCES Safety & Risk Management Office and the Environmental Health Division of the Cayuga County Health Department. Based on their recommendations, we developed a plan for water sampling of all plumbing fixtures used for drinking or cooking at our facilities. Water samples were collected from 55 sources on September 22, 2016 and submitted to Life Science Labs in Syracuse for analysis.

We received the results from the laboratory yesterday, October 18, 2016. The results indicated that two of the 55 samples tested above the action level of 15 ppb (ug/L) levels. We are pleased to report that neither of these fixtures is used for cooking or as a source of drinking water. One fixture, a filling station in a commercial kitchen, is never used and has permanently been removed from service. The second fixture, a faucet for a dishwashing sink in the Day Care Center, only used for cleaning, is now provided with signage reminding staff to not use the fixture for drinking or food preparation – only cleaning. We will eventually replace the dishwashing faucet and retest for lead content. All other fixtures tested below the 15 ppb (ug/L) action level.

We are always concerned about the health and safety of our students and staff. We responded quickly to this concern about lead levels in drinking water, and we are addressing the specific issues at the BOCES. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the District Superintendent's Office at (315) 253-0361, extension 7615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise Dzikowski".

Denise Dzikowski
District Superintendent of Schools

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Building	Area	Fixture	Comment	9/22/16 Lead Analysis
Regional Education Center	Culinary Arts Kitchen	Filling Station at West Cooking Line	Permanently Removed From Service	50 ppb (ug/L)
Regional Education Center	Day Care Kitchen	Dishwashing Sink	Signage Installed, Replacement & Retesting Planned	21 ppb (ug/L)