



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
DATE: May 20, 2016

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## **MINER ANNOUNCES RESULTS FROM LEAD TESTING IN SYRACUSE SCHOOLS**

*Mayor Asked the Syracuse Water Department to Perform Tests in All Syracuse City School District and Private School Facilities to Ensure Drinking Water Safety*

*Miner: Ensuring Students Have Safe Drinking Water in School Demonstrates the Human Impact of Infrastructure*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner announced today results of lead tests in public and private elementary and high schools in the City of Syracuse. The initial tests were conducted in March and subsequent tests in April of this year at the Mayor’s request. Forty-three schools tested safely under EPA guidelines.

“Nowhere is it clearer that infrastructure has a tangible human impact than in ensuring our students have safe drinking water at school,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “Every day, we must strive for solutions that keep our water safe and our community healthy. My administration is committed to being vigilant about the impact of lead to the City of Syracuse and improving our entire infrastructure, including water systems.”

The City of Syracuse Department of Water tested two samples from each school building: one nearest to the intake of water, one furthest away. This method of testing delivers an understanding of the entire system and can determine if a problem might exist. Testing close to the intake of water determines if there is an issue with the service line; testing a site furthest away from the source indicates whether or not there is an issue with the building’s internal plumbing.

Forty-three schools had lead levels below the EPA school building standard of 20 parts per billion (ppb). In two schools, the Delaware Elementary School and the Syracuse Academy of Science High School, one sample registered above the EPA standard. Following those results, a comprehensive test of all water fixtures in each of the buildings was conducted.

In the Delaware School, the fixture which registered the highest rating, a sink in room without student access, was ultimately tested three times. On the initial test, it registered 24 ppb. On a second test, it registered 20 ppb. On a third test, it registered less than 1 ppb. In the Syracuse Academy of Science, the fixture which originally had a high reading of 38 ppb was a sink in a science lab. Upon retesting, it had a reading of 32 ppb.



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Upon learning of these issues, the school leadership was immediately notified and these sinks were placed off limits. In both instances, the City's Department of Water has advised the schools to remove and replace those fixtures, which are not principally used for drinking water or food preparation. The administration has been assured the sink in the Delaware School has been replaced and the sink in the Academy of Science will be replaced soon.

The City of Syracuse is less vulnerable to issues with lead because of the construction of our mains. Water mains are made of cast iron and, more recently, ductile iron. Service lines, which connect individual properties to the water main, were sometimes made of lead before 1930. The Water Department regularly tests homes, randomly selected, for lead levels in accordance with federal and state regulations. The Water Department maintains records on the age of all service lines. No Syracuse City School District school or private school has a lead service line. If a customer would like to know more about their service line, they can call the Department of Water at (315) 473-2609 for more information. Upon request, the Water Department will test individual properties with a lead service line to determine their levels.

The City of Syracuse Water Department has taken proactive steps to address potential hazards in the water supply, including regularly testing water quality at 50 sites throughout the City. Results of these tests are publicly available in the Water Department's [annual newsletter](#), which can be found on the City website. If residents have lead service lines and want them removed, the Water Department runs the Lead Service Replacement Program, where the City will replace the private service line and add the charge for doing so to the property tax bill.

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