

**Meria Joel Carstarphen, Ed.D.**

Superintendent

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July 13, 2016

Dear Usher-Collier Heights Parents and Caregivers,

As a follow-up to the letter you received on June 30, Atlanta Public Schools has retested the water in your school building. **The results have arrived, and after replacing the faucet in the work room, your school has been cleared.**

Atlanta Public Schools initiated voluntary water quality testing in 113 properties including your child's school, as well as stadiums and administrative facilities. This testing was conducted as a proactive precautionary measure to ensure that our drinking water is safe for students and employees. We had no reason to believe that there was elevated lead in any district water source, however, in the wake of recent national reports about the discovery of lead in some public buildings, we believed it was an important action to take.

During our water testing initiative, whenever a water source is found to have an elevated lead level, that water source is immediately isolated from public use and corrective actions are implemented to address the elevated levels. In some cases, a simple flushing of a fountain or sink was all that was required to produce a clear report. None of these sources will be opened for public consumption until they are tested as cleared.

Although the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not require these tests; the tests were conducted to the agency's strict standards. APS hired a private, professional environmental firm to oversee the federal standards testing for lead. If there are any additional elevated levels of lead found in buildings, APS will immediately implement corrective actions and develop a plan to provide safe water for students and employees in every building. Test results are coming in daily and remediations are being made throughout the summer.

APS continues to be committed to the safety and well-being of its students and employees. The district will continue to take appropriate steps to ensure that all water sources have been cleared for the start of the 2016-2017 school year.

For more information about our water testing process, click [here to read my blog](#) or visit our [water testing website](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meria', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Meria J. Carstarphen