

Meria Joel Carstarphen, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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June 30, 2016

Dear West End Academy Parents and Caregivers,

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.

While we are still awaiting the results for many of our schools, as of today, we have the results for 750 water sources that were sampled. Of those 750 water sources, 23 initially came back with elevated levels of lead. Each of these sources was immediately isolated from public use and corrective actions are being 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. **Out of the 15 sites that were reported in the AJC with elevated levels, one sink was flushed and is scheduled for retesting.**

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Meria J. Carstarphen'.

Meria J. Carstarphen, Ed.D.
Superintendent