

Water Testing – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: Why is Atlanta Public Schools performing water quality tests at its buildings?

A: The safety and well-being of our students and employees are paramount. As such, the district is taking this precautionary measure given recent reports of elevated lead in some public buildings nationally.

2. Q: If any problems are discovered, how will they be addressed?

A: In the event of a positive test, the water source will be immediately isolated from public use and corrective actions will be implemented to address the elevated levels.

3. Q: Who will be conducting the tests?

A: APS' Facilities Services has contracted with certified environmental consulting firms to conduct the sampling. Samples will be analyzed by a third-party laboratory.

4. Q: When will testing begin and end?

A: Testing started promptly at the conclusion of the school year in May 2016 and will conclude in mid July 2016.

5. Q: Will the tests impact the quality of water or the availability of water in APS?

A: No, the sampling involves the collection of water from water fountains and sinks. There will be no impact on water service nor requirements to alter or turn off the water during the sampling process.

6. Q: When will the results be known and made public?

A: The district began receiving test results in late June. As soon as testing is completed, final results will be shared with the public.

7. Q: How many APS buildings will be included in the testing?

A: A total of 113 buildings will be tested including schools, stadiums and administrative facilities.

8. Q: How much does it cost the district to perform these tests?

A: The tests will cost the district approximately \$200,000 to perform.

9. Q: Exactly how are these tests performed?

A: A "first draw" sample of water will be collected in laboratory supplied sample bottles by certified vendors. Each sample will be assigned a unique number. The sample is then supplied to a separate qualified laboratory for conducting chemical analyses on the sample taken.

10. Q: Will charter school buildings be tested as well?

A: Yes, charter schools that occupy buildings owned by APS will be tested.

11. Q: If corrective action is needed, how will APS pay for the repairs?

A: Funds will be identified from current general fund or capital budgets.