



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 26, 2025

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities (APSSD), Leads for State Funded Early Childhood Centers (contracted childcare and Head Start programs), Leads for Receiving Schools

Route To: Business Administrators, Certified Educational Facilities Managers

From: David F. Corso, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Finance and Business Services

Deadlines: **Testing of Lead in School Drinking Water: June 30, 2025**  
**Submission of Statement of Assurance to the NJDOE: June 30, 2025**  
**Submission of Reimbursement Application to the NJDOE: August 31, 2025**

## 2024-2025 Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water

This is a reminder that all regulated entities, including Districts, Charter Schools, Renaissance Schools, Jointure Commissions, Educational Services Commissions, APSSDs, Early Childhood providers contracted with districts, and receiving schools, are required to conduct lead testing in school drinking water during the 2024-2025 school year. In accordance with [N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4](#), the testing must be completed no later than **June 30, 2025**, regardless of whether previous testing has been conducted. Please ensure that all necessary arrangements are made to comply with this requirement.

### Key Steps/Actions

#### 1. Facility Level Reporting

- Make all drinking water testing results available at the school facility.

#### 2. Required Exceedance Actions

- If any drinking water sample results exceed the lead action level of 15 µg/l (ppb) or 0.015 mg/L, immediately discontinue use of the affected drinking water outlet.
- Provide written notification of the exceedance to parents/guardians of all students, facility staff, and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).
- Use the [Exceedance Notification Letter Template](#) to meet this requirement.

#### 3. Website Reporting

- Post the most recent water testing results and any exceedance notification letters on the entity's website. (This is required to complete the Statement of Assurance (SOA) described in item #4.)
- Do not submit test results to the NJDOE.

#### 4. Statement of Assurance (SOA)

- Submit the 2024-2025 Statement of Assurance (SOA) by June 30, 2025, via **the form on the NJDOE's [Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water Webpage](#)**.
- The SOA confirms the following: (1) completion of lead testing, (2) notification sent to relevant parties, and (3) availability of alternative drinking water where lead levels exceed the limit. Links to the posted test results and notification letters, if applicable, must be provided on the SOA.

### Funding Information

Regulated entities, including nonpublic schools, that complete lead testing in drinking water between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, are eligible for reimbursement. However, state-funded early childcare facilities with WIIN Act grants or other funding are not eligible for reimbursement.

To apply, submit the 2024-2025 Reimbursement Application, which can be found on the NJDOE's [Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water Webpage](#). **The application deadline is August 31, 2025.** Please note that reimbursement is subject to approval and dependent on available funds.

### Common Compliance Issues

- **Childcare providers noncompliant:** Childcare providers contracted with a district must follow NJDOE rules by testing during the 2024-2025 school year and submitting a NJDOE SOA each year by June 30.
- **Testing not completed:** All NJDOE regulated entities must test once every 3 years, including the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Improper sampling:** Only testing for lead in drinking water is required. Other parameters, such as copper, and testing from non-drinking water outlets are not required by NJDOE rules.
- **Test results not posted:** All recent results must be posted on the entity's website.
- **SOA not submitted:** All NJDOE regulated entities, including those exempt from testing, must submit an annual SOA by June 30.
- **Exemption request:** Entities that do not use any outlets for drinking water or food preparation must submit an exemption request to the NJDOE for approval each testing year.
- **Ineligible costs for reimbursement:** Only eligible costs, with proper invoices, are reimbursable. Costs for non-compliant sampling, testing, or remediation are not eligible.

### Contact Information

For more information on lead testing rules, submission requirements, and guidance visit the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) [Testing for Lead in School Drinking Water webpage](#).

For technical questions, email the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) at [watersupply@dep.nj.gov](mailto:watersupply@dep.nj.gov). For NJDOE-related questions on rules, submissions and reimbursement, email [leadtesting@doe.nj.gov](mailto:leadtesting@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Christine Norbut Beyer, MSW, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families  
NJDOE Staff  
NJDCF Office of Licensing  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJSBGA  
NJ LEE Group