



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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August 22, 2017

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
School Business Administrators
Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Administrators of State-Funded Early Childcare Facilities

ROUTE TO: Building Supervisors
Principals
Staff Involved with Testing for Lead in Drinking Water

FROM: Robert L. Bumpus, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Services

SUBJECT: Deadlines for Districts to Submit Reimbursement Requests and Provide a Statement of Assurance for Testing for Lead in Drinking Water

Following the July 12, 2017 deadline for New Jersey schools to complete testing for lead in drinking water, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is reminding schools to submit for reimbursements of testing costs, and notifying school districts of a September 29, 2017 deadline to submit a statement of assurance.

Reimbursement of Testing Costs

The Fiscal Year 2018 state budget has allocated \$10 million to reimburse school districts for the costs associated with testing for lead in drinking water during the 2016-17 school year. With a significant number of reimbursement requests submitted, the NJDOE expects to be in a position to begin reimbursing school districts and charter schools in October 2017. To ensure reimbursement in October, the NJDOE advises all school districts and charter schools that have not yet submitted a reimbursement request to complete the [reimbursement request form](#) and email it to LeadTesting@doe.state.nj.us **no later than September 29, 2017**. School districts and charter schools that submit reimbursement requests after September 29, 2017 may still be eligible for reimbursements.

The lead testing and analysis reimbursement program is limited to the following: the cost for the collection of water samples; the cost to complete testing and analysis of the water sample by a New Jersey-certified laboratory; and the delivery of results. Reimbursement requests must be submitted with adequate documentation validating these costs, including invoices from the New Jersey-certified laboratory.

Other costs, such as development of the lead sampling plan and any necessary remediation, are not eligible for reimbursement.

Statement of Assurance

Pursuant to New Jersey regulations ([N.J.A.C. 6A:12.4\(g\)](#)), all district boards of education must annually submit to the NJDOE a statement of assurance that testing for lead in drinking water has been completed. All school districts, renaissance school projects, and charter schools that have not already submitted to the NJDOE a request for reimbursement of testing costs, or do not plan to do so by September 29, 2017, must fill out the [statement of assurance form](#) and email it to LeadTesting@doe.state.nj.us **no later than September 29, 2017**. School districts, renaissance school projects, and charter schools that have already submitted a reimbursement request to the NJDOE, or plan to do so, will provide their statement of assurance through the [reimbursement request form](#).

The NJDOE will continue to provide school officials with additional information on this important matter as it becomes available, but it is recommended that school officials regularly visit the [NJDOE's lead-testing website](#), as well as the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's [lead-testing website](#), for any updates. School officials with questions about the work that is required should email the NJDOE at LeadTesting@doe.state.nj.us. The NJDOE has resources available to answer questions or to arrange training sessions for small groups of districts.

- c: Members, State Board of Education
- Kimberley Harrington, Commissioner
- Senior Staff
- Executive County Superintendents
- Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
- Executive County Business Officials
- Administrators of Nonpublic Schools
- NJ LEE Group
- Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
- Garden State Coalition of Schools