



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 10, 2023

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, 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: Amanda Schultz, Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Finance and Business Services

Deadline: June 30, 2023

2022-2023 Statement of Assurance Submission for Lead Drinking Water

No later than June 30, 2023, all entities listed below must submit to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) a 2022-2023 statement of assurance (SOA) for Testing and Reporting of Lead in School Drinking Water using the form available on the NJDOE [SOA Lead in School Drinking Water submission webpage](#).

Covered entities include:

- New Jersey public school districts;
- Charter schools;
- Renaissance schools;
- Jointure commissions;
- Educational services commissions;
- Approved private schools for students with disabilities acting under contract to provide educational services on behalf of New Jersey public school districts;
- State-funded early childcare facilities pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:13A (contracted childcare and Head Start programs); and
- Receiving schools as defined by N.J.A.C. 6A:14-7.1(a).

In accordance with [N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4 Safe Drinking Water](#), all regulated entities must submit an SOA to the NJDOE each year assuring that testing and reporting of lead in school drinking water requirements are being met. As part of the SOA submission, the entity will be required to provide most recent dates the testing of lead was completed, school webpage address links to posted test results, the posted exceedance letter (if applicable) and the posted NJDOE approved exemption letter (if applicable). The most recent test results collected from all outlets and any applicable letters must remain posted on the entity's webpage.

A 2022-2023 SOA for Lead Drinking Water Testing and Reporting is required to be submitted for all entities including any entity that received an exemption approval. In addition to any New Jersey Department of Children and Families (NJDCF) licensing requirements, State Funded Early Childcare Centers (contracted childcare and Head Start programs) must also submit the online NJDOE SOA. As a reminder, all entities must test for lead from all drinking water outlets during the same three-year testing cycle. The next statewide testing year is 2024-2025 in which all entities must test for lead in school drinking water.

Failure to submit the SOA by June 30, 2023, may result in disqualification for reimbursement, an investigation by the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance, and the Commissioner's withholding of State aid pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A-2-1.2.

More information is available on the NJDOE [Testing and Reporting of Lead in School Drinking Water webpage](#). Questions or comments can be emailed to 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
NJ LEE Group