



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: April 17, 2024

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: Secil Onat, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Finance and Business Services

Deadline: June 30, 2024

2023-2024 Statement of Assurance Submission Concerning Lead in School Drinking Water

No later than June 30, 2024, all regulated entities must complete and submit a statement of assurance (SOA) concerning the testing and reporting of lead in school drinking water to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). **The SOA form is available on the NJDOE's [2023-2024 SOA for Testing and Reporting of Lead in School Drinking Water webpage](#).** Statewide mandated testing is not required until the 2024-2025 period (between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025).

Regulated entities include:

- New Jersey public school districts;
- Charter schools and Renaissance School Projects;
- Jointure commissions;
- Educational services commissions;
- Approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSD) 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).

2023-2024 Reporting Year Requirements

All regulated entities must submit a completed SOA to the NJDOE by June 30, 2024, using the NJDOE-provided [form](#). The SOA confirms compliance with requirements concerning the testing and reporting of lead in school drinking water in accordance with [N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4 Safe Drinking Water](#). As part of the SOA submission, entities must provide evidence that water testing results and, if applicable, exceedance notification letters, remain posted on the entity's website by providing active website links.

An entity that received an exemption approval for the statewide 2021-2022 testing year is also required to submit an annual SOA. The 2021-2022 exemption approval letter must remain posted on the entity's website.

State-Funded Early Childcare Centers (contracted childcare and Head Start programs) must meet the NJDOE Safe Drinking water requirements and submit the online annual SOA to the NJDOE in addition to New Jersey Department of Children and Families (NJDCF) requirements.

Failure to submit the SOA by June 30, 2024, may result in 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.

Upcoming 2024-2025 Statewide Designated Testing Year

Testing for lead in drinking water must be completed every three years during the statewide designated testing year. The next testing year is 2024-2025. All regulated entities must test for lead in drinking water in all outlets used for drinking and food preparation between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. Testing completed prior to July 1, 2024, does not fulfill testing requirements. Non-drinking water outlets, such as bathroom sinks, are not required to be tested under the NJDOE regulations. All entities are directed to develop a lead sampling plan that will govern the collection and analysis of lead in drinking water samples (N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(d)1). Guidance documents to assist regulated entities in completing sampling and testing can be found on the [NJDEP's webpage](#).

Entities may request an exemption from the testing requirements if they can demonstrate that they do not use any drinking water outlets for consumption or food preparation in any of their facilities. Applications to request an exemption will be available for submission during the designated statewide 2024-2025 testing year.

Additional Information

More information is available on the NJDOE's [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