

Summersville R-II School District
525 Rogers Ave.
Summersville, MO 65571

February 19, 2024

Re: Get the Lead Out Initiative - Testing Results

Dear Summersville Community,

Over the last few decades, actions have been taken to reduce or remove lead and lead exposure in plumbing components through the Safe Water Drinking Act and subsequent amendments. In 2022, Missouri Legislation took a step forward in an additional effort to further reduce lead exposure in children by passing the Get the Lead out of School Drinking Water Act (RSMo 160.077) which sets standards for lead concentrations in school drinking water. This Act requires schools to conduct inventory, sampling, remediation, and monitoring at all potable drinking water outlets used or that could potentially be used for drinking, food preparation, cooking, and/or cleaning of utensils.

The Summersville R-II School District partnered with Triangle Environmental to test and determine the presence of lead in the district's potable drinking water outlets. This testing is important to maintain a safe and healthy environment for our students. Materials like pipes and fixtures may contain lead and corrode over time releasing lead into the water supply. Student and staff safety can be ensured by reducing or eliminating dangerous lead sources before exposure. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a lead in drinking water level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). Lead levels in drinking water at or above this standard are considered elevated and require action be taken. However, the Get the Lead out of School Drinking Water Act (RSMo 160.077) states each school shall provide drinking water with a lead concentration level below 5 ppb in sufficient amounts to meet the drinking water needs of all students and staff.

On August 11, 2023, samples were collected from 26 fixtures in the Summersville R-II School District and tested for the presence of lead. The following results were given in late September:

Total samples above the action level of 5 parts per billion (ppb) - 4 (15%)

See the Lead Drinking Water Assessment for individual results. This document can be viewed on our district website (svilleschools.com). The areas that exceeded 5 ppb were an elementary water fountain, a high school water fountain, and two sinks in the high school cafeteria. All areas were put out of service until remediations were completed.

Steps were taken immediately to remedy the sources that tested above 5 ppb. Both buildings received new water fountains with filters to remove lead and other contaminants and pipes were replaced in the high school cafeteria. Scheduling a retest for these areas was delayed due to the high volume of schools requiring these services. On December 18, 2023, the four areas that were initially above 5 ppb were retested. **Results of this testing after remediation were received in January and found all water sources to be below 5 ppb and safe for consumption!**

The Summersville R-II School District will continue to test water outlets for lead as required by law to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amber Hunt

Superintendent, Summersville R-II Schools

[Click here to view the testing results from September](#)

[Click here to view the testing results from December](#)