



HOPE Community Academy Lead Testing Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with Minnesota Statute 121A.335, which mandates the testing of drinking water in public schools for lead contamination, and to safeguard the health and well-being of students, staff, and other school occupants by minimizing exposure to lead in drinking water.

Scope:

This policy applies to all drinking water sources within the charter school facilities, including water fountains, taps, and other potable water outlets.

1. Lead Testing Requirements

1.1 Testing Schedule:

- The school shall test all drinking water outlets for lead content within 1 year of the effective date of this policy, as required by Minnesota Statute 121A.335.
- Following the initial round of testing, the school will conduct lead testing of drinking water every 5 years.

1.2 Testing Procedures:

- The testing will be conducted by a qualified, licensed professional or laboratory that is capable of conducting lead testing in accordance with Minnesota Department of Health guidelines.
 - The testing will measure the lead concentration in parts per billion (ppb) to determine whether the water exceeds the threshold for lead contamination.
 - Samples shall be taken from representative drinking water sources within the school, including all water fountains and taps used by students, staff, and visitors.
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2. Lead Action Level

2.1 Lead Contamination Threshold:

- In accordance with Minnesota Statute 121A.335, any drinking water outlet found to have lead concentrations greater than 5 parts per billion (ppb) will be considered above the action level and will require corrective action.
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3. Corrective Actions for Elevated Lead Levels

3.1 Immediate Actions:

- If any drinking water outlet exceeds the 5 ppb action level for lead, the school will take immediate steps to prevent access to that water source. This includes posting clear signage indicating that the water is not safe for consumption.
- The school will provide bottled water or install alternative drinking water sources until the lead issue is resolved.

3.2 Remediation Efforts:

- The school will promptly identify the source of the lead contamination and take appropriate remediation measures, which may include replacing plumbing fixtures, installing water filters, or other corrective actions as recommended by qualified experts.
- If necessary, the school will work with the local water utility or other agencies to ensure the water supply is safe.

3.3 Re-testing:

- After remediation efforts have been completed, the school will conduct follow-up testing to ensure the lead levels are within safe limits before allowing access to the water source.
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4. Notification and Reporting

4.1 Parent and Guardian Notification:

- The school shall notify parents and guardians within 10 days of receiving lead test results that exceed the 5 ppb action level.
- The notification will include information about the testing results, the steps taken to address any lead contamination, and the status of the affected water outlets.



4.2 Public Reporting:

- The school will make test results available to the public by posting the results on the school website or by providing access to the data upon request.
 - A summary of lead testing results and corrective actions taken will be provided to the Minnesota Department of Education as required by state law.
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5. Record Keeping

5.1 Retention of Testing Results:

- The school will maintain records of all lead testing results, corrective actions, and related communications for a minimum of 10 years in accordance with state law.
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6. Compliance with State Law

6.1 Ongoing Compliance:

- The school will ensure ongoing compliance with all applicable state laws, regulations, and guidelines regarding lead testing and lead remediation in drinking water.
 - Any changes to Minnesota Statute 121A.335 or related regulations will be promptly incorporated into this policy to ensure the school continues to meet state requirements.
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7. Staff Responsibilities

7.1 Lead Testing Coordinator:

- The school will designate a Lead Testing Coordinator responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, coordinating testing schedules, ensuring compliance with state laws, and communicating with parents, guardians, and relevant authorities.

7.2 Training and Awareness:

- The Lead Testing Coordinator will ensure that all relevant staff are trained and informed about lead testing procedures and the actions to be taken in the event of elevated lead levels in drinking water.
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8. Policy Review and Updates

8.1 Annual Review:

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the school's administrative team to ensure its effectiveness and to incorporate any changes in state laws, regulations, or best practices related to lead testing.

Adopted by the Charter School Board on: 2/27/25

Reviewed on: 2/25/27

Next Review Due: Feb. 2026