**Dr. Rick Cobb**
**Superintendent of Schools**

7217 S.E. 15th Street
Midwest City, OK 73110
(405) 737-4461
rcobb@mid-del.net

March 2, 2022

Dear Highland Park Elementary Staff and Families:

I am writing to provide accurate information in order to correct some stories that are circulating about water quality at Highland Park Elementary Schools. Since I'm not sure how much you've heard, let me start from the beginning.

Last summer, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced that they would provide free testing for lead in schools, upon request from the district. I instructed our operations department to request the testing. We were informed that there was a significant wait time to have our schools tested, so we began independently testing our school sites.

Testing by DEQ included two samples collected from each water source in the building. This included 212 total samples. Of those, 11 came back with slightly elevated levels of lead. These water sources included water fountains and classroom faucets. The report also included recommended corrections. These water sources have either received the new equipment to begin using again, or they have remained out of use.

**None of the water sources that tested positive for lead were in use in the kitchen.**

More recently, a teacher has made us aware of a fountain from which the water appears cloudy coming out. This was due to air in the water line. This issue has been corrected.

We take concerns about water safety as seriously as we do any other kinds of safety issues. That's why I asked DEQ to check our schools in the first place. If the state is willing to do safety checks for free for us, I don't know why anyone would turn that down. I look forward to getting reports from the other schools as they come in as well.

If you are interested in reading the full report from DEQ, we have added it as a news item on the Highland Park web page. If you have follow up questions you would like to ask, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Cobb

Dr. Rick Cobb

SCOTT A. THOMPSON
Executive Director

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KEVIN STITT
Governor

December 7, 2021

Stephanie Cavner, Principal
Highland Park Elementary
5301 S Dimple Dr
Oklahoma City, OK 73135

Re: Sample Results, Lead Testing of Drinking Water
Highland Park Elementary

Dear Ms. Cavner:

Please find enclosed with this letter a copy of the results from the first round of testing of drinking water for lead that was conducted at Highland Park Elementary School. Overall, 106 outlets were tested, leading to 212 total samples being sent to the lab. Two samples were drawn from each outlet, a first draw sample (indicative of lead present in the faucet or tap) and a 30-second flush sample (indicative of the presence of lead in interior plumbing lines). To help visualize where each fixture is located, I have included maps at the end of this letter.

- One hundred and forty-six (146) samples had **no** detectable level of lead.
- Fifty-five (55) samples had detectable lead **between 1 and fifteen (15) micrograms/Liter.**
- Eleven (11) samples had detectable lead **above fifteen (15) micrograms/Liter.**

| Room # | Outlet Description | Lead Results: First Draw / Flush (in micrograms/Liter) | Above or below Action Level (15 micrograms/Liter) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Below** | | | |
| Room #23 | Classroom Faucet #2 | 1.1 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Room #11 | Drinking Waterspout | 1.1 / 1.1 | Below |
| Room #7 | Classroom Faucet | 1.2 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Hall | Water Cooler #11 (outside room #20, most left cooler) | < 1.0 / 1.2 | Below |
| Art/Music Building | Water Cooler #2 | 1.3 / < 1.0 | Below |
| C5 | Drinking Waterspout | 1.3 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Main Office (Front Entrance) | Kitchen Faucet | 1.3 / < 1.0 | Below |
| A7 | Classroom Faucet #1 | 1.3 / < 1.0 | Below |
| A5 | Classroom Faucet | 1.3 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Cafeteria | Kitchen Faucet located in kitchen | 1.4 / < 1.0 | Below |
| A7 | Classroom Faucet #2 | 1.4 / < 1.0 | Below |
| A4 | Classroom Faucet | 1.4 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Room #23 | Drinking Waterspout | 1.5 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Room #20 | Classroom Faucet | 1.5 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Hallway | Water Cooler #12 (outside room #20, on the right) | < 1.0 / 1.6 | Below |
| Art/Music Building | Water Cooler on the left | 1.7 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Room #8 | Bathroom Faucet #2 | 1.7 / < 1.0 | Below |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Room #25 | Classroom Faucet #1 | 1.8 / <1.0 | Below |
| Room #8 | Drinking Waterspout | 1.9 / 1.1 | Below |
| Room #19 | Drinking Waterspout | 2.0 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Room #10 | Classroom Faucet | 2.0 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Room #2 | Classroom Faucet | 2.3 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Hall | Water Cooler #1 (on the right, outside room #5 | < 1.0 / 2.3 | Below |
| A4 | Drinking Waterspout | 2.3 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Room #10 | Drinking Waterspout | 2.8 / < 1.0 | Below |
| A8 | Classroom Faucet #2 (without spout) | 2.9 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Room #18 | Classroom Faucet | 3.0 / < 1.0 | Below |
| A8 | Drinking Waterspout | 3.2 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Nurse Office (main office) | Nurse Sink | 3.4 / < 1.0 | Below |
| A3 | Classroom Faucet #1 (Connected to spout) | 3.5 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Room #18 | Drinking Waterspout | 4.1 / < 1.0 | Below |
| A6 | Drinking Waterspout | 4.5 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Room #23 | Classroom Faucet #1 (Connected to spout) | 4.7 / < 1.0 | Below |
| **Below (Borderline)** | | | |
| Room #2 | Drinking Waterspout | 5.1 / 1.3 | Below |
| A1 | Classroom Faucet #1 (connected to drinking spout) | 5.3 / < 1.0 | Below |
| C2 | Classroom Faucet | 5.5 / < 1.0 | Below |
| A1 | Drinking Waterspout | 5.5 / 1.1 | Below |
| Hallway | Water Cooler #2 (left of other water cooler, outside room 7 & 8) | 1.8 / 6.7 | Below |
| A1 | Classroom Faucet #2 (without spout) | 7.8 / < 1.0 | Below |
| Hallway | Water Cooler #10 (water cooler on the right) | 7.9 / 6.6 | Below |
| A6 | Classroom Faucet #2 (without spout) | 8.4 / < 1.0 | Below |
| C2 | Drinking Waterspout | 11.4 / < 1.0 | Below |
| PTA | Drinking Waterspout | 14.3 / 2.4 | Below |
| **Above** | | | |
| Room #1 | Drinking Waterspout | 15.9 / 2 | **Above** |
| Room #1 | Classroom Faucet | 16.5 / < 1.0 | **Above** |
| C6 | Classroom Faucet | 19 / < 1.0 | **Above** |
| C5 | Classroom Faucet | 26.6 / < 1.0 | **Above** |
| Hallway | Water Cooler #9 (left of the other water cooler) outside Room A5 | 10 / 29.6 | **Above** |
| Hallway | Water Cooler #6 (left of the other water coolers) outside Room #1 | 9.4 / 36.6 | **Above** |
| PTA room | Classroom Faucet | 49 / 4 | **Above** |
| Old Nurse Office by Gym | Nurse's Faucet | 80.1 / 5.8 | **Above** |
| Hallway | Water Cooler #5 outside of Library | 26.8 / 125 | **Above** |
| A6 | Classroom Faucet (connected to spout) | 519 / < 1.0 | **Above** |

**Overall, the highest detectable lead level for Highland Park Elementary was the Classroom Faucet in Classroom A6. I would recommend marking this faucet out of order and making it inaccessible to everyone for the time being.**

For each fixture with lead results **over 15 micrograms/Liter**, we recommend one or more of the following:

- Take the fixture out of service or make it inaccessible to students and staff.
- Determine source of lead by comparing first draw and flush sample results (the fixture or plumbing system).
- Replace fixtures with certified lead-free fixtures (NSF Standard 61) or remove the fixtures permanently if they are not needed.
- If replacing fixtures, schools should contact DEQ to discuss steps to take to ensure the water is safe to drink before returning it to use.
- Replace internal plumbing system components, if necessary, to reduce lead exposure or install National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified filters to remove lead and replace as recommended by the manufacturer (only as an interim measure and if absolutely necessary).

For each fixture with lead results of one **(1) microgram/Liter to fifteen (15) micrograms/Liter**, we recommend one or more of the following:

- Establish a required flushing schedule for each room at the start of each instructional day.
- Replace fixtures serving water with detectable lead levels above five (5) micrograms/Liter with certified lead-free fixtures (NSF Standard 61) or remove the fixtures permanently if they are not needed.
- Clean aerators regularly to remove particulates that may contain lead.
- Install a NSF certified filter to remove lead and replace it as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Permanently convert these fixtures to hand wash only stations.
- If replacing fixtures, schools should contact DEQ to discuss steps to take to ensure the water is safe to drink before returning it to use.

Once you have read over the letter and have ideas for remediation actions, please contact me and we can discuss. Once remediation actions plans have been finalized, we can move forward and fix the problem outlets and re-sample.

I have enclosed a flushing protocol from the Environmental Protection Agency's "3Ts" program (found in Module 6: Taking Action). As a friendly reminder, please make sure to review Module 1: Communicating the 3Ts for guidance on how to communicate these results to stakeholders. Stakeholder communication is a federal requirement for all participating schools and childcare centers.

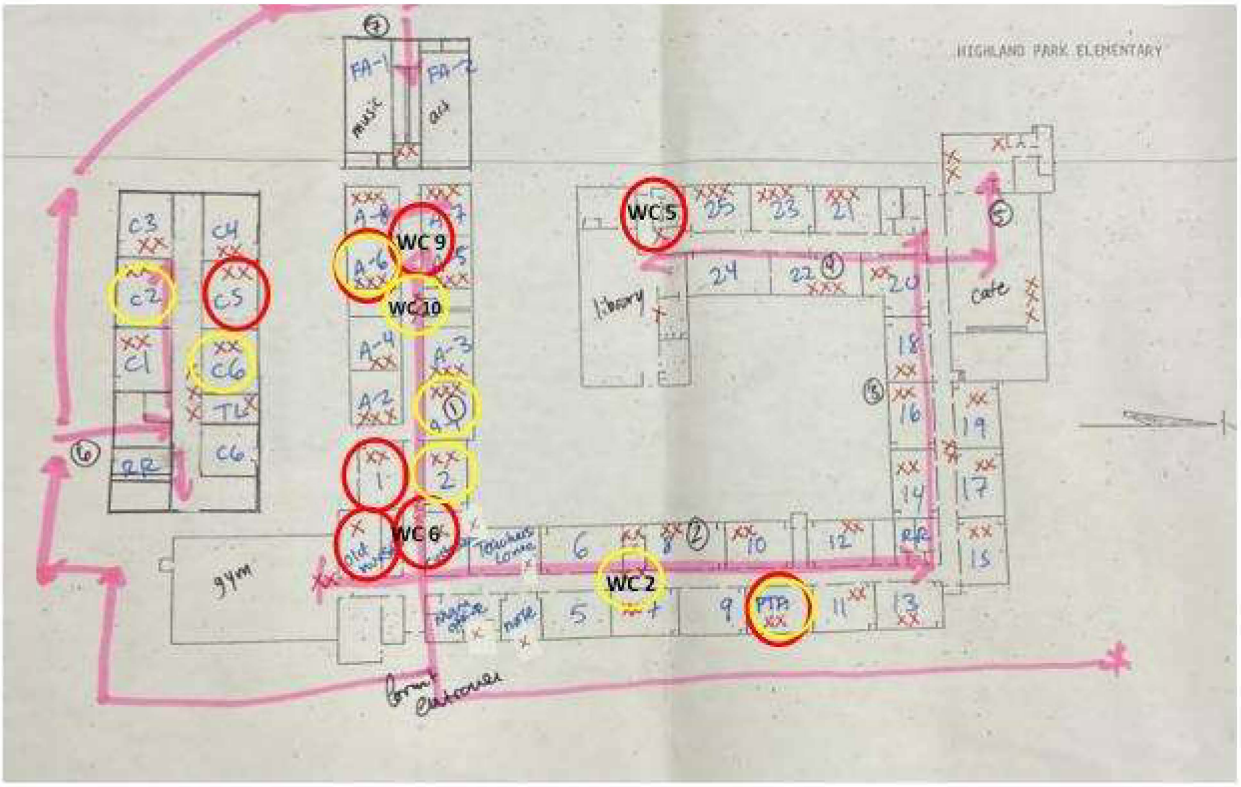
The Capacity Development Section stands ready to assist you in any way you might need. Please contact me at 405-702-8106 at any time should you have questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

Lisa Maslanka

Lisa Maslanka, Environmental Programs Specialist
Capacity Development Section
Water Quality Division

**Highland Park Elementary Lead Testing in Drinking Water High Results Map**
Red Circle: Lead Result >15mg/L
Yellow Circle: 1-15mg/L



**Wright City Schools Water Line Map**