



West Linn – Wilsonville Schools

January 31, 2025

Dear West Linn High School Parents, Teachers, Staff and all Building Occupants:

As part of the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Healthy and Safe Schools Plan (ORS 332.331), all Oregon schools are required to test for elevated levels of lead in drinking or food preparation water. To ensure all West Linn-Wilsonville schools are safe and healthy, and to meet OHA mandates, the District took water samples from all required fixtures at West Linn High School on January 16 and 17, 2025. The samples were immediately taken to a certified lab for testing. Results were received from the lab on January 27, 2025 and January 29, 2025.

Results:

Of the 235 water samples taken, five exceeded the 15.0 parts per billion (ppb) action level established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and OHA. The EPA and OHA lowered the action threshold from 20.0 ppb to 15.0 ppb in 2021. Please note that one fixture that had a particularly high reading of 344.0 ppb is in the school's laundry room, and thus is not routinely accessed for drinking water.

Next Steps:

All five fixtures that came in above the EPA action threshold were immediately taken out of service and will all be replaced or taken out of service permanently. Once the fixtures that will be replaced have been replaced, the maintenance department will re-test them. These test results will be made available within 10 days of receiving them. Attached is the testing log sheet for West Linn High School. Below is a glossary of terms used to help understand the test results.

GLOSSARY:

Lead — A chemical element with the symbol Pb. It is a heavy metal that can build up in one's body over time and can contribute to negative health consequences, such as developmental delays and learning difficulties. Lead is also recognized by the EPA as a probable human carcinogen.

Fixture ID # — Every fixture in the school district has a unique identification number, per the state guidelines set July 2021.

PPB — Parts per billion. Represents the concentration of lead in water. One ppb represents one microgram of lead per liter of water.

For any questions regarding lead in water testing or results in our district, please contact Jeremy Nichols, designated Lead in Water Testing Coordinator, at (503) 673-7981 or nicholsj@wlwv.k12.or.us. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Nichols
Safety & Transportation Supervisor
Department of Operations