



LEAD TESTING for K-12 SCHOOLS

CA State Water Boards Requires WATER SYSTEMS to PROVIDE LEAD TESTING

SACRAMENTO, January 17, 2017 – In an effort to further safeguard California’s water quality, K-12 schools in the state can receive **free testing** for lead under a new initiative announced by the State Water Resources Control Board.

The Water Board is requiring all community water systems to test school drinking water upon written request by the school’s officials.

There are approximately 9,000 K-12 schools in California, most of which are served by more than 3,000 community water systems in the state. While these community water systems extensively and regularly test their drinking water for lead, lead could get into clean water at a school campus if there were corroded pipes or old fixtures at the school.

Because California has newer infrastructure and less corrosive water than other parts of the country, lead problems at the tap are uncommon. However, national events have highlighted the importance of ongoing water quality monitoring and in 2015 Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. directed the State Water Board to incorporate schools into the regular water quality testing that community water systems conduct at customer’s taps.

Under the new requirement, testing is voluntary for schools, but if the schools make a written request, the community water systems must collect the samples within three months and within two business days of receiving the laboratory results, deliver those results to the school. Sampling locations can include drinking fountains, cafeteria and food preparation areas, and reusable water bottle filling stations. The one-time program extends until Nov. 1, 2019.

For more information on the lead sampling for schools program, see our frequently asked questions, go to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/leadsamplinginschools.shtml