



## RAISE THE BAR. COMMIT TO EXCELLENCE.

DR. KIMBERLY YOUNG WILKINS, INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

December 7, 2016

Dear William S. Hackett Middle School Families:

The health and safety of all students and staff in the City School District of Albany is a top priority for us. To that end, I am writing to inform you about the results of lead testing in the district, and specifically at Hackett Middle School.

In accordance with a new law Gov. Cuomo signed in September, the district joined all public schools statewide in testing all water outlets currently or potentially used for drinking or cooking purposes for lead levels. The district tested water outlets at all 20 buildings – about 1,500 total samples – with the assistance of a state-approved laboratory. A water outlet is any water source that someone could possibly draw water to drink. This includes bathroom sinks, janitorial sinks and kitchen sinks.

The district tested all 12 elementary schools by the state's Sept. 30 deadline for elementary testing. The district then tested all middle schools, the Alternative Learning Center, Albany High School (including the Abrookin Career and Technical Center), the Harriet Gibbons Student Services Center and Academy Park by the state's Oct. 31 deadline for secondary schools and administrative buildings.

At Hackett, eight of 85 outlets had results above the state's new limit of 15 parts per billion (ppb). None of the results above the new state limit was at a drinking fountain. Here are the outlets at Hackett that had results above 15 ppb:

- Kitchen A kettle (18.7 ppb)
- Kitchen B kettle (16.4 ppb)
- Boys' locker room shower 1 (42.4 ppb)
- Boys' locker room shower 2 (38 ppb)
- Boys' locker room shower 3 (59.7 ppb)
- Boys' locker room shower 4 (66.4 ppb)
- Boys' locker room shower 5 (54.1 ppb)
- Third-floor custodial sink (22.6 ppb)

The other 77 water outlets tested at Hackett had no positive results and have been cleared.

In accordance with the new state law, the district is taking immediate action in those locations where

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the lead level from a water outlet exceeds the state's level of 15 ppb. At all times, the district will ensure that all students and staff have an adequate supply of water for drinking and cooking. At Hackett and at all schools that have positive test results, the district will put the following action plan in place, which conforms to state regulations:

- Notify the Albany County Department of Health
- Submit all test results to the New York State Department of Health
- All water outlets requiring remediation are being taken off line as soon as possible.
- All outlets with positive tests will be fixed within six weeks. New water samples will be taken at each of those outlets and submitted to the state for testing. The district will clear a water outlet for use again only after receiving a report from a state-approved laboratory that the outlet in question is now below the legal limit.
- When all water outlets in a building are cleared, the district will notify all staff and families.

Please visit [www.albanyschools.org](http://www.albanyschools.org) to read more about our results district-wide. Please call my office if you have any questions or feedback, 475-6010.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Young Wilkins, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools