

# Edwards County

## Community Unit School District #1

361 West Main Street, Suite 100 • Albion, Illinois 62806  
www.echs.edwrds.k12.il.us  
Phone (618) 445-2814



January 22, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians

In accordance with Senate Bill 550, which was signed into law January 16, 2017, requires all schools housing grade levels Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade built prior to January 1, 1987 are required to test for lead in water which is used for drinking and cooking by December 31, 2017. School buildings built between 1987 and 2000 must complete lead testing by December 31, 2018.

On November 28, 2017, water samples were drawn to be tested from the Albion K-12 school building and November 29, 2017, at the West Salem Grade School. A total of 80 samples (68 at the Albion K-12 & 12 at WSGS) from 40 outlets were taken. Two samples were taken from each outlet consisting of the following process: a "first draw" sample was taken which consisted of water that had sat stagnate in the lines for 8-18 hours and a "second draw" sample was collected after 30 seconds of flushing subsequent to the first sample. Samples were sent to PDC Laboratories, Inc., an EPA-Accredited laboratory, where analytical testing was conducted. EPA Method 200.8 "Lead in Drinking Water" was performed on all samples.

The District just recently received the results from these sample and found that all but one of the 80 samples were found to have "non-detectable" lead levels (5 parts per billion or lower) in the water consumed. A kitchen sink which is used to wash produce for the high school (line 2 meals) had an elevated reading of 8.25 parts per billion on the first sample and a non-detectable level on the second sample. Upon learning of the results, the sink was immediately taken out of service and the faucet was replaced as this is often times the contributing source of elevated lead readings. After the work was performed, a second reading was conducted, however, the levels still remained high. At the present time, the sink has permanently been taken out of service until additional work and testing can be performed. The sink will not be put back in service until lead levels are deemed to be at a non-detectable level.

If you would like to learn more about drinking water testing, please visit the Illinois Department of Public Health website at <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/lead-in-water>.

Please contact the District Office at 618 445-2814 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



David L. Cowger, Superintendent

