



**Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti**  
Superintendent of Schools

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Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018

Dear DPSCD Families:

I want to take this opportunity to once again explain the drinking water situation in our district. As you know, nothing is more important than the safety of our children. Despite no requirement to test our water at the federal, state, or local level, we initiated water testing at all of our schools and all of our water sources, including drinking fountains and sinks. I want to be clear, most districts and schools throughout the country, state, and the city do not perform this level of review. We did this because it was the right thing to do for our students and staff. I hope all schools will follow our lead in the months and years to come.

Although test results from 2016, late Spring of 2017, and as recently as a week ago reveal nearly 34 of nearly 50 schools have evidence of isolated (i.e. not every water source) elevations of copper and/or lead, we made the decision to suspend drinking water in all schools until all water test results are returned. We will likely have pending test results returned over the next month. In the meantime, schools will be given water coolers based on the number of students at each school. Water is still safe to be used for washing hands and toilet use. "No drinking water" signs will be posted in bathrooms. Unfortunately, over the years, we have only used our kitchens on a limited basis to heat food and not cook by scratch so this decision will not affect food service to students.

There are no quick solutions to our challenge despite suggestions to replace drinking fountains or sink fixtures, and a complete overhaul to our plumbing infrastructure is not financially viable with existing resources. I am bringing together a team of engineers and doctors to evaluate our challenge. It is likely we are looking at a long-term solution that would place new water stations at our schools with upgraded piping, a strong cooling and filtration system, along with frequent water testing.

In the meantime, we have eliminated what was, and could be, a distraction to your child's focus on their education. We will announce citywide community meetings to address outstanding questions and issues in the coming weeks. Please visit our website <http://detroitk12.org/drinking-water/> to obtain water test results and a list of frequently asked questions on the water quality subject.

Sincerely,

Nikolai P. Vitti, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Detroit Public Schools Community District

**Students Rise. We all Rise**

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