

1500 E. 128th Ave, Thornton, CO 80241
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Chris Gdowski
Superintendent

Dear Five Star Parents and Guardians,

Adams 12 Five Star Schools and the cities in which it serves are partnering in a proactive effort to sample drinking water in all Five Star school buildings to ensure it meets Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines for lead. Lead is not present in the water sent to our schools from the cities, but it may enter the water as it moves through lead-containing plumbing and fixtures.

While there is no state or federal mandate requiring schools to test for lead, the safety of our students, staff and schools is our number one priority; therefore, our Environmental Services team decided to proactively sample drinking water sources to ensure they meet guidelines established by the EPA.

Starting in January 2017, we began sampling the water in drinking fountains, kitchen food prep sinks, lounge sinks and any other fixtures used for drinking water in all Five Star schools. As the district completes sampling of all schools, families will be notified and results posted online as they become available. Sampling work is expected to be completed by the end of the school year.

The EPA measures the amount of lead in water as “parts per billion” or “ppb”. One part per billion is equivalent to a single drop of water in 55,000 gallons. As with several other Colorado school districts that are conducting voluntary sampling, Five Star Schools is following EPA guidelines that any water fixture with lead levels at or above 15 ppb be taken offline until remedied. Remedies may include fixture replacement, adding water filters and other plumbing repairs. While a fixture is taken offline, alternative sources of water will be provided as needed until the situation is resolved and a follow-up sampling indicates lead levels below 15 ppb.

More information

Full details regarding our water sampling program in the Five Star District are available online: www.adams12.org/leadtesting.

Information includes:

- Questions about lead and the district’s sampling program
- Action steps being taken by Adams 12 Five Star Schools
- Sampling results for schools as they become available

Should you have questions concerning the district’s water sampling program, please connect with our Environmental Services team via our webpage: www.adams12.org/leadtesting.

Sincerely,

Chris Gdowski
Superintendent

Geoff Mills
Environmental Program Manager