



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **State Launches Voluntary Water-Sampling Program for Hoosier Public Schools**

INDIANAPOLIS (Feb. 23, 2017) – The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA), as part of its environmental programs division, officially launched its lead sampling program today, offering drinking water sampling to all Indiana public school districts.

“This voluntary program is part of the State’s comprehensive efforts to ensure the availability of safe drinking water,” said Jim McGoff, director of environmental programs with the IFA. “The sampling program is free to participating Indiana public schools and will test water source fixtures in a variety of school district facilities.”

Those water sources include drinking water fountains, ice machines, food-preparation sinks, and other fixtures that provide water for human consumption. Water testing will follow all State and federal guidelines. While satisfactory samples are expected at schools around the state, officials have a plan to assist in cases where lead levels are elevated.

“Schools have access to funding options via the IFA’s State Revolving Fund loan programs to address immediate needs,” said McGoff. “If a sample test reveals elevated lead levels, the IFA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management will work with the school district to map out next steps to address the situation.”

The State Revolving Fund loan programs provide low-interest loans to Indiana communities for projects that improve wastewater and drinking water infrastructure.

To participate in the lead sampling program, Indiana public school districts must complete a questionnaire that enables IFA to prioritize the extent of sampling needed in each school district. The IFA will roll out information sessions with participating public school districts in the coming months.

Public school districts interested in the lead sampling program can visit the link below for more information.

Lead Sampling Program – [www.in.gov/ifa/2958.htm](http://www.in.gov/ifa/2958.htm)

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#### **ABOUT INDIANA FINANCE AUTHORITY**

The Indiana Finance Authority oversees State-related debt issuance and provides efficient and effective financing solutions to facilitate state, local government and business investment in Indiana. Part of the oversight includes managing The State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan programs, which provide low-interest loans to Indiana communities for projects that improve wastewater and drinking water infrastructure. The program’s mission is to provide eligible entities with the lowest interest rates possible on the financing of such projects while protecting public health and the environment. SRF also funds non-point source projects that are tied to a wastewater loan.

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