



February 23, 2017

Dear Indiana Public School Superintendents:

Our Nation's drinking water infrastructure has received increased attention recently, especially as it relates to the potential existence of lead in drinking water service lines. This matter is of equal importance in Indiana, and because of the disproportionate effects that lead may have on children, an evaluation of our State's schools becomes even more important.

The Lead Sampling Program

In order to address this concern, the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) is implementing a voluntary Lead Sampling Program for Indiana's Public Schools. The Lead Sampling Program's goal is to provide technical assistance and laboratory analysis services to assess lead in drinking water at public schools. The IFA's Lead Sampling Program will consist of water samples being taken from only those locations used for drinking water and food/beverage preparations at each school campus (includes those buildings associated with school activities such as athletic complex, administration buildings, etc.) in your school district.

The IFA will contract with trained consultants to conduct the sampling under each school system's supervision to ensure that the samples are collected properly and in accordance with sampling guidance provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as outlined in the "3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools." After the samples are collected, they will be analyzed by a certified laboratory for the presence of lead and the results will be shared with you so that you may better understand the current condition of your public water supply and openly discuss the matter with your students and parents.

We believe that, for the most part, satisfactory results will be returned, resulting in little to no further action being needed. However, if a circumstance is presented that suggests a need for additional testing and/or action, the IFA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will provide guidance to your school district to identify next steps. For your information, a Fact Sheet containing information on next steps to take should sampling results exceed the action level set by the EPA, which is 15 parts per billion, is located at <http://www.in.gov/ifa/2958.htm>.

What is Needed from Each School District who is Interested in Participating

If your school district would like to participate in the Lead Sampling Program, please fill out the online Request for Information Questionnaire (Questionnaire) located at <http://www.in.gov/ifa/2958.htm>. Please submit the online Questionnaire no later than April 1, 2017.

What Will the IFA Provide

The IFA will be contracting with consultants that will be conducting the sampling, as well as coordinating the analysis of all samples by certified laboratories. The funding of these services will be provided by the IFA at no cost to the school district.

The Lead Sampling Program will not presently be providing any additional funding to pay for any lead remediation activities.

Upon receipt and evaluation of the Questionnaire(s), one of our consultants will coordinate a sampling schedule with you. Depending on the interest in the Lead Sampling Program and the volume of samples, we anticipate that sampling and analysis of the samples can be completed in calendar year 2017.

Prior to any sampling activities taking place, Information Sessions will be offered across the state to participating school districts. The Information Session will further explain the details of the Lead Sampling Program and provide an opportunity to ask questions.

The IFA looks forward to working with you on this very important initiative. More information on the Lead Sampling Program can be found at <http://www.in.gov/ifa/2958.htm>. If you have any additional questions about the Lead Sampling Program or the Questionnaire you may contact Staci Orr at (317) 232-8623 or via email IFALeas@ifa.in.gov.

Sincerely,



James P. McGoff
Director of Environmental Programs