



# GOWANDA CENTRAL SCHOOL

*Learning, Caring, Excelling*

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October 31, 2016

Dear School Community/Staff/Students:

It is a priority of every school district to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for its students, and clean water is no exception. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes, and other plumbing materials. Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers, and lakes. New laws that went into effect in 2014 reduced the amount of lead that plumbing fixtures can contain from 8% to 1%. Brass faucets, fittings and valves – including those advertised as “lead free” – may still contribute lead to drinking water.

The Gowanda Central School District is in compliance with New York State Public Health Laws requiring all schools and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to test potable water outlets for lead contamination, to remediate contamination where found, and to notify parents of children and the public of test results. Levels of lead at any water outlet above 15 parts per billion (ppb) require action to remediate this issue.

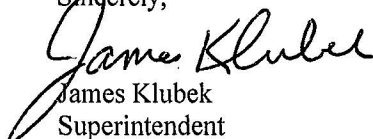
As required, the Gowanda Central School District tested all water sources in every building for lead on Saturday, October 1, 2016 and Saturday, October 8, 2016. As provided to us under specific protocols, first draw water samples were taken after letting the water remain unmoving in the pipes over a period of 8 to 18 hours. Since the tests were given on 2 separate days, we have only received the results from the elementary building, bus garage and Hillis field. The results of these first tests were received on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 and of the 166 water samples tested, 43 showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. As soon as we receive the test results from the middle/high school, we will share those in a separate letter. Specific results of outlets that tested above 15 ppb (parts per billion) are listed in the chart on the back of this letter.

The Gowanda Central School District is taking a number of steps to correct the problem. We have shut off the water supply to those fixtures used for drinking or cooking. Any water sources used for other purposes such as showering and general cleaning have been clearly labeled with warning signs not to be used for drinking or cooking. The next step is to develop a remediation plan that will be approved and guided by the experts in the field of water remediation.

The timetable for remediation of each of the identified sources will depend on the availability of parts, installation, and the process for retesting. It is important to note that none of the sources will be put back into service and available for drinking or cooking until the sources are fully mitigated and meet New York State Department of Health Standards.

A copy of our water testing results is available in our Buildings and Grounds office, which is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. You can also call our Director of Facilities, Richard Smith, at (716) 532-3325 x6400. Results are also posted on the District website at [www.gowcsd.org](http://www.gowcsd.org).

Sincerely,

  
James Klubek  
Superintendent