



## SOUTH HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear SHPS Parents/Guardians:

Here at South Haven Public Schools, we are committed to ensuring our students and staff has access to safe drinking water. Recently we voluntarily contracted with New Age/Landmark, a local certified drinking water laboratory, to collect and sample water from 196 locations throughout the District. Two sample draws of water were taken at each location throughout the district. Of the 196 locations tested, 9 fixtures exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) action level.

The EPA's mandated water standard action level is 15 parts per billion (ppb). Due to our commitment to providing safe drinking water for our students and staff we opted to exceed the EPA's water standard. The District has adopted the voluntary water standard recommended in August by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) of 5 ppb. To give the community a frame of reference, this means South Haven Public School's is meeting the bottled drinking water standard.

Once water test results were received, South Haven Public School staff immediately turned off any fixture that tested at or above the voluntary 5 ppb action level, which fortunately did not include any fixtures used primarily for water consumption.

**Therefore, please know that it is highly unlikely any students or staff members consumed water that contained contaminants.** The District has taken the following additional corrective action at the affected locations:

- Test results indicated three fixtures at Maple Grove Elementary, one at North Shore Elementary, and two at Baseline Middle School reported at or above the 5 ppb action level. The results showed the elevated readings were not due to the building plumbing systems, but were directly associated with the fixture sampled. SHPS replaced the identified fixtures and retested the locations after replacement.
- In South Haven High School, three original drinking fountains tested at or above the 5 ppb action level. SHPS staff have turned off all original drinking fountains in the building. These fixtures will remain closed until they are replaced this summer as part of a previously scheduled Bond-funded High School Renovation Project.
- In Lincoln Elementary, 9 backroom fixtures tested at or above the 15 ppb action level. SHPS staff turned off all fixtures that tested at or above the voluntary 5 ppb action level, and as an extra precautionary measure, closed off all backroom sinks in the building. In surveying staff, we discovered that these identified fixtures were not in use or very seldom used. These fixtures will remain closed until they are replaced this summer as part of a previously scheduled Bond-funded domestic water pipe and fixture replacement project.

### **How Can I Learn More?**

You can see a copy of all water testing results for each school building at the school district's central office, and on our website at [www.shps.org](http://www.shps.org) For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact SHPS Director of Non-Instructional Services Kevin Dee at 269-637-0500. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or the Michigan DEQ [www.michigan.gov/drinkingwater](http://www.michigan.gov/drinkingwater)

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Herrera  
Superintendent