

*Dr. Joshua J. Isaacson*  
Superintendent

**De Soto School District #73**

*Mr. Ron Farrow*  
Assistant  
Superintendent



**Superintendent's Office**

*Ensuring learning, growth, and success for all.*

January 24, 2024

Dear De Soto School District Families and Staff,

The De Soto School District is committed to the safety and well-being of our students and staff. In alignment with that commitment and in compliance with the new Missouri state law, "Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water," we had a professional environmental consulting firm initiate and complete testing of our water. Specifically, each possible water source in our schools and buildings was sampled and tested to determine if the lead concentrations in the water was above the required action level of five parts per billion (5 ppb), which is equal to 5 micrograms per liter. The 5 ppb level required by the state is below the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) recommended action level of 15 ppb.

While the law specifies that all preschool through 12th grade schools that receive state funding have until August 1, 2024, to complete testing at all drinking water outlets and food preparation outlets, we acted proactively, in accordance with our commitment to protecting our community, and tested each outlet to ensure we could immediately initiate remedial measures as needed.

During the holiday break in December of 2023, each of our school buildings had all possible drinking and food preparation water outlets tested.

The results of these tests are summarized below:

- At the Early Childhood Center, 1 of 7 outlets had concentrations above the established state level of 5 ppb.
- At the Annex Building, 0 of 2 outlets had concentrations above the established state level of 5 ppb.
- At Athena Elementary, 1 of 30 outlets had concentrations above the established state level of 5 ppb.
- At Vineland Elementary, 11 of 39 outlets had concentrations above the established state level of 5 ppb.
- At De Soto Junior High School, 3 of 25 outlets had concentrations above the established state level of 5 ppb.
- At De Soto High School, 5 of 44 outlets had concentrations above the established state level of 5 ppb.

In order to remedy outlets found to be above the state level of 5 ppb, the district has turned off outlets and in areas utilized for cooking the district will follow guidelines to run water 30 seconds prior to use. Utilizing an outside contractor, the district will replace outlets with the intent of having the outlets tested again within the next 30 days.

Please know the safety and health of our students and staff is our highest priority, and we will work diligently to rectify every source that is out of compliance. In the meantime, all students and staff will continue to have access to a variety of water outlets that have met compliance throughout our schools. Additional information on our testing results as well as resources about lead in drinking water can be found at this [link](#) on the district website.

Sincerely,

Dr. Josh Isaacson  
Superintendent