



April 1, 2024

Okemos High School Families,

Okemos Public Schools remain dedicated to the health and safety of our students and staff, as well as to clear and transparent communication with the community. In March, Okemos High School's water was tested for lead and other contaminants as part of our district wide testing plan.

Most of the 12 samples were undetectable for lead, and only one sample tested at the district's action level of 5 parts per billion – although the goal will always be no detectable lead. The results can be found in the chart below and on our Environmental Testing [website](#).

The Environmental Resources Group, our environmental testing partners, sampled water from classrooms, a bottle filler, and the cafeteria kitchen sink.

Okemos High School Water Testing Results			
Kitchen sink	2 ppb	C 225: Carrier	4 ppb
Bottle filler: Cafeteria	Not detected	C 124: Canestraight	5 ppb
A 103: Phillips	2 ppb	D 135: Buggia	Not detected
A 101: Miller	Not detected	Main Office restroom	Not detected
A 105 - 1st draw: Hollenback	Not detected	2D Art Studio: Hollenback	1 ppb
A 105 - 2nd draw: Hollenback	Not detected	Women's Locker Room sink	Not detected

We have been asking our staff to direct students to drink water only from filtered bottle filling stations throughout the building until further testing is completed. These bottle fillers filter out lead and other contaminants. Signs are posted showing where students should fill their water bottles, and where they should not drink out of faucets.

ERG finished testing all of the schools in the district just before spring break started. We prioritized the youngest students and the oldest buildings to be tested first. Structures constructed before 1987 have a greater likelihood of lead-based solder in pipes.

**John J. Hood**

john.hood@okemosk12.net

4406 N. Okemos Rd., Okemos, Michigan 48864

Phone: 517-706-5007 Fax: 517-349-6235

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Okemos is working to implement Michigan's Clean Water Drinking Act, known as the "Filter First Legislation," ahead of the state's 2025-26 deadline. The state is finalizing guidance on the legislation, which will include a Drinking Water Management Plan template, guidance for filters, and training.

Our commitment to health and safety includes:

- implementing Michigan's Clean Water Drinking Act, known as the "Filter First Legislation" ahead of the state's 2025-26 deadline,
- a continued commitment to providing filtered water stations in each school,
- implementing an annual water testing schedule district-wide, starting with our structures built before 1987 when lead solder was still used to connect copper pipes,
- increased frequency of water testing at any of our buildings undergoing construction, with a focus on those built prior to 1987,
- email of building test results to families,
- building a portal to report testing results on the district [website](#).

The Okemos Public Schools will continue to take all necessary steps to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment that prioritizes the well-being of our students, staff and community. If you have additional questions please contact our Operations Department at 517-706-5039.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Hood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H".

John J. Hood, Superintendent, Okemos Public Schools

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