

EARLY ADOPTERS

State Approaches to Testing School Drinking Water for Lead in the United States



STATE PROFILE **Idaho**

Summary of Program Features

Idaho initiated a school drinking water lead testing program in 2016. This summary is based on a review of program documents collected between January 2018 – June 2018 and communication with Idaho state contacts.

School Drinking Water Testing Policy/Program Overview

Policy/Program Feature	Information from Policy/Program Documents	Additional Information from Communication with State
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Background

Name	No name	
Date(s) of Water Policy/Program	2016 to present ¹	
Issuing Authority	State government department ²	
Agency Responsible for Program Management	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality ²	Idaho Department of Education ¹
Policy or Program	Program ²	
One-time or Surveillance Program	Not specified	
Mandatory/Voluntary for Schools	Voluntary ¹	
Partnership with Local/Community Water Supplier/System	Not specified	
Other Key Partnerships	Not specified	
References or Uses the EPA 3Ts	Yes ^{2,3}	

Program Coverage

School Type (Public, private, charter)	Public schools ^{2,3}	Public schools and public charter schools ¹
Grade Levels	Not specified	
Includes Testing for Lead	Yes ²	
Includes Treatment/Remediation	Not specified	
Schools Eligible to Participate		
Schools of a certain building age	Not specified	
Schools that serve certain ages/demographics	Not specified	
Schools that are their own local/community water supplier	Not specified	
Schools that use local/community water supplier	Yes ²	
Schools that have not received a waiver	Not specified	

Funding

Funding Source	State government ²	
Funding Amount	Not specified	
Covers Sampling at Taps	Not specified	
Covers Testing in Lab	Yes ²	
Covers Treatment/Remediation	Not specified	

Sampling Information

Policy/Program Feature	Information from Policy/Program Documents	Additional Information from Communication with State
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Background

Sampling/Testing Process One-Time or Recurring	Not specified	
Number of Buildings/Facilities Sampled (All or a Portion?)	Not specified	
Types of Taps Sampled	Drinking and other human consumption ²	
Number of Taps Sampled Per School/ Building (All or a Portion?)	A portion (those used for consumption) ²	

Initial Sampling at Taps

Stagnation Period	Before flushing or use occurs and overnight stagnation ² or 6 to 18 hours ³	6 to 18 hours ¹
First Draw	Yes ^{2,3}	
Flushing Period	Not specified	
Second Draw (Flushed Sample)	Not specified	
Additional Initial Samples	Not specified	
Sample Size of Water	250 mL ^{2,3}	
Action Level for Lead	20 ppb ^{2,3}	

Action Required When Samples Exceed Action Level for Lead

Follow-Up Draws	Yes, if initial results are elevated ³	
Flushing Period	30 seconds ³	
Sample Size of Water	250 mL ³	
Additional Draws	Not specified	

Testing/Remediation/Communication Information

Policy/Program Feature	Information from Policy/Program Documents	Additional Information from Communication with State
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Testing

Type of Lab Used for Testing	EPA-certified, ² state lab ^{2,3}	
Sample(s) that Require Action if Results are Elevated	First draw ^{2,3}	

Remediation

Short-Term Measures	Yes, EPA-approved measures are included ²	
Long -Term Measures	Yes, EPA-approved measures are included ²	

Communication

Groups Notified of Test Results	School staff, students, parents and general public ²	
Type of Results Shared (outlet level, building level, school level)	Not specified	



Sources:

1. Email Communication with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Contact. June 2018.
2. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Lead in School Drinking Water: Information and Resources for Schools. DEQ.Idaho.Gov. <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/school-drinking-water-lead>. Accessed April 17, 2018.
3. Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, Division of Public Health. Public School Lead Testing Request Form. October 2016. http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/Health/Labs/School_Lead_Request_Form.pdf. Accessed April 16, 2018.

Citation:

Cradock AL, Poole MK, Vollmer LY, Barrett JL, Flax C, Hecht CA. State Approaches to Testing School Drinking Water for Lead in the United States [State Profile: Idaho]. Boston, MA: Harvard Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; 2019. Available at <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/prc/projects/school-research/early-adopters>. Address correspondence to Angie Cradock, ScD, MPE at acradock@hsph.harvard.edu.

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