

SOUTH COLONIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

102 Lorelee Drive
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Jonathan W. Buhner
Superintendent of Schools



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www.southcolonieschools.org

A Letter from Superintendent Jonathan W. Buhner

October 13, 2016

Dear Forest Park Elementary Parents and Staff Members,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that on Thursday, October 13, 2016 the District received preliminary results of water quality testing which is being performed in all of our schools in accordance with legislation signed by Governor Cuomo on September 6, 2016. The new law requires all New York State public schools to test all water sources for lead contamination. The State Department of Health and the State Education Department have established an action level threshold of 15 parts per billion or .015 mg/L. The water sources that test above this level must be immediately taken out of service and corrective action must be taken.

It is important to note that South Colonie Central School District has followed its own water testing protocols initiated approximately 15 years ago, long before the state initiated this recent legislation. Since then, South Colonie's Operations and Maintenance staff members have conducted random samplings of drinking water sources at all sites across the District. Over the years the results have shown that levels have consistently tested below the actionable level set by the state.

The majority of water testing results for Forest Park Elementary School have been received by District officials. All potable water sources at Forest Park Elementary School were tested over the last few weeks including drinking fountains, sink faucets in classrooms, restrooms, and faucets in the kitchen/cafeteria areas. Of the 60 samples which were received back from testing, six (6) were above the allowable .015 mg/L or 15 parts per billion as per the new regulations. These six (6) sink faucets, identified below, are used for hand washing and cleaning purposes; none are designated as drinking fountains.

Sink in Room #21 – Mrs. Boyagian	.026 mg/L
Sink in Room #L31 – Library Staff Sink	.019 mg/L
Sink in Room #18 – Empty Classroom Sink	.018 mg/L
Sink in Room #9 – Ms. Fleshman	.033 mg/L
Sink in Room #GG2 – Girls Bathroom (2 nd Grade Hallway)	.016 mg/L
Sink in Room #GG1 – Girls Bathroom (3 rd Grade Hallway)	.018 mg/L

The District has immediately shut off water to the affected sources listed above and will be taking remedial steps pending another water quality test. As a follow-up, additional water tests will be conducted to ensure the remediation was successful before placing the sinks back in service for students and staff members.

Please be assured that we will continue to take the necessary steps to ensure the quality of drinking water throughout our District meets these new state regulations. We will keep you informed as we continue to receive the results of the ongoing water testing at all of our schools.

Please call me at (518) 869-3576, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan W. Buhner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jonathan W. Buhner
Superintendent of Schools

Resources for Parents

[New York State Department of Health Regulations for new water testing law](#)

New York State Department of Health: [Information for Child Care Providers and Schools](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: [Basic Information About Lead in Drinking Water](#)

Governor Cuomo signs Landmark Legislation to Test Drinking Water in New York Schools for Lead Contamination, [Press Release](#)