

# Milwaukee Math & Science Academy



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12/20/17

Milwaukee Math and Science Academy  
10 W. Burleigh Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

City of Milwaukee School District Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community, the City of Milwaukee School District tests our schools' drinking (and washing) water for lead.

Why Test School Water for Lead?

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At very high levels, lead can even cause brain damage.

To protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests that schools and daycare facilities test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 20 parts per billion (ppb), EPA recommends taking action to reduce the lead.

Is Our School's Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our schools' water is safe. The City of Milwaukee School District tested our drinking water for lead. Of the (48) water samples we tested, only **ONE** showed lead levels above the 20 ppb mark. In other words, **98%** of the water outlets tested did not have any lead problems.

The outlet with high lead levels was a **sink in the boy's bathroom off of the cafeteria** at Milwaukee Math and Science Academy. We identified the source of the lead so we could fix the problem. **The sink has been turned off until the problem can be rectified.** The some parts for this sink were made of lead parts. Lead was often used in plumbing materials until it was banned in 1986. We replaced the part with a lead- free faucet. Then we tested the water again and found the problem was fixed.

While we sampled the schools' water, we provided alternative drinking water locations, and water for washing hands for all students and staff. When we found high lead levels at (two) water outlets, we made sure no one used those outlets until we had fixed the lead problems.

How Can I Learn More?

You can see a copy of all of our water testing results at the school, which is open Monday to Friday from (7:30 am to 4:15 pm) and on our Web site at (<http://www.mmsacademy.org>). For more information about water quality in our school, please contact Alper Akyurek at Milwaukee Math and Science Academy at 414-263-6440. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or state drinking water agency.

Sincerely,

Alper Akyurek, Principal