



# Shrewsbury Public Schools

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To: School Committee

Subj: REPORT ON TEST RESULTS OF SCHOOL DRINKING WATER

## BACKGROUND

There has been much media attention afforded to the water crisis in Flint, Michigan which has revealed numerous systemic breakdowns in the oversight and management of its water system. An unacceptable level of lead in the drinking water is just one of several issues found in the Flint Water Crisis. Of course, research has shown lead to cause negative health effects and that these impacts are more harmful to children. Some of these adverse effects are listed below.

- Behavior and learning problems
- Lower IQ and hyperactivity
- Slowed growth
- Hearing problems
- Anemia

## FEDERAL REGULATIONS

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Town of Shrewsbury Water Department adheres to all of these regulations and tests drinking water in schools in accordance with these regulations. Current regulations do not require testing 100% of school drinking water sources but rather taking samples on a rotating basis every three years.

## RECENT ADDITIONAL TESTING AND RESULTS

Out of an abundance of caution, we decided to conduct extensive water testing at all schools to verify the quality of the water and safeguard the health of our students and staff. Water Department staff recently collected 68 samples from all public school locations and had them tested via an independent laboratory for lead and copper content. All drinking fountains and the primary kitchen taps were tested. The test results are enclosed and show that levels of lead and copper were either “non-detectable” or well within the acceptable level.

We are pleased to report and verify that our school drinking water is in fact safe. Finally, we are grateful for the cooperation and quick work of the Water Department in this endeavor.