

Understanding Lead Test Results from School Drinking Water

To understand the water test results from your child's school, it is important to first understand how the water was tested.

First Draw Test Water tested after it has been sitting in pipes over night (or for more than 6 hours) is called a first draw test. A first draw test will determine if lead is dissolving into the water. Usually, the highest concentrations of lead in water is found in first-draw tests

Follow-up Flush Test In a follow-up flush test, the water is tested after it has been run for about 30 seconds. Follow-up flush test results are more representative of lead that is entering the water from piping directly behind the faucet or fountain. Water test results are reported in parts per billion (ppb). Although there is no level of lead in drinking water that is deemed safe, it is recommended that schools stop using all fixtures with elevated lead concentrations of 4 ppb or higher.