

***Get the lead out of school and day care center drinking water***

**WHEREAS:** There is no state law requiring water to be tested in schools and day care centers.

**WHEREAS:** Pennsylvania has no law regulating allowable lead levels in the drinking water and schools and child care facilities.

**WHEREAS:** There is no policy or plan in the commonwealth to remove lead from pipes, plumbing and faucets in schools and child care centers.

**WHEREAS:** There is no level of lead exposure that is considered safe, although the US EPA recommends that action be taken at a specific outlet when the lead concentration is over 20 parts per billion (ppb).

**WHEREAS:** A 2014 PA Department of Health student found children in 19 communities (including Levittown, Allentown, Erie, Johnstown, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Reading and Scranton) tested positive for lead at levels higher than those found in children in Flint, Michigan.

**WHEREAS:** Aging infrastructure and years of disinvestment in communities is likely to result in lead in the drinking water in schools, day care facilities and other public buildings.

**WHEREAS:** The World Health Organization states:

- “Lead is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems and is particularly harmful to young children.
- Lead in the body is distributed to the brain, liver, kidney and bones. It is stored in the teeth and bones, where it accumulates over time. Human exposure is usually assessed through the measurement of lead in blood.
- Lead in bone is released into blood during pregnancy and becomes a source of exposure to the developing fetus.
- There is no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe.
- Lead poisoning is **entirely preventable**.” (emphasis added)

**RESOLVED:** AFT Pennsylvania supports new state laws and regulations to require testing of water in schools and child care facilities

**RESOLVED:** AFT Pennsylvania supports laws and regulations that require remediation of lead contamination through replacement of plumbing, service lines and faucets and installation of filters certified to remove lead where it is deemed necessary.