



Somerdale Public School District

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[Mr. Robert Ford](#)
Vice-Principal

[Dr. Dennis Vespe](#)
Superintendent/Principal

[Ms. Melissa Engelhardt](#)
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

March 6, 2017

Dear Somerdale Park Community,
Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. As you know, to protect our community and to be in compliance with the NJ Department of Education regulations, Somerdale Board of Education tested our school’s drinking water for lead.

Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems, especially in pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance.

We identified and tested all water outlets used for drinking and food preparation at Somerdale Park School. Of the 37 samples taken, all but 1 tested below the action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for lead in drinking water (15 µg/l [ppb]).

Is Our School’s Drinking Water Safe?

Yes, our schools’ water is safe. Somerdale Board of Education identified one (1) outlet at Somerdale Park School with lead levels above the EPA action level. The plumbing fixture was replaced with a lead-free fixture and the water was retested to ensure that the problem was fixed. The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above 15 µg/l, the corrective action taken, and the retested lead levels.

Sample Location	Remedial Action	Retest--First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb)
Bubbler Water Fountain in Room A-2	Replaced	2.70

For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Ms. Melissa Engelhardt at the Somerdale Park School, 856-783-6261.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dennis Vespe
Superintendent of Schools