



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Molly M. Spearman
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: March 3, 2020

RE: Lead Testing of Drinking Water at Qualifying Elementary Schools and Child Care Centers

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) is the recipient of a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement a "Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Programs Drinking Water Program." Authorized under Section 2107 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, the grant provides funding for qualifying schools and child care centers to voluntarily have their drinking water tested for lead.

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is partnering with the SCDHEC to share information about this grant. The goal of this program is to protect and promote the health and well-being of our youngest children who are among the most vulnerable to the health effects of lead exposure. This is a statewide effort but will target only those elementary schools and child care centers that meet the SCDHEC's qualifying criteria. Attached is a fact sheet about the program.

In the coming months, the SCDHEC will be identifying schools to be included in the drinking water sampling for lead. Once identified, the SCDHEC will contact the superintendent of the school district to ask permission and coordinate the collaborative effort to collect samples. The SCDHEC will also work with each school district to share outreach and education materials about their test results. As new information becomes available in the coming months, the SCDHEC will also update the program's website located at www.scdhec.gov/lead-testing-schools-and-child-care-programs.

If you have any questions about this grant please contact Jocelyn Walters-Brannon, SCDHEC, at walterjy@dhec.sc.gov or 803-898-4096.