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James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

September 12, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On September 6, 2016 Governor Cuomo signed a law requiring that all New York State public schools test for lead in potable (drinking) water every five (5) years. This new law makes New York State the first State to require testing for lead in drinking water and it also established a threshold for remediation of 15 ppb (*parts per billion*) for a 250 mL (*milliliter*) water sample. Prior to the passage of this law, most local districts voluntarily testing their drinking water were conducting the tests under the supervision of Rockland BOCES Health and Safety and were adhering to the EPA's Technical Guidance protocol entitled "3T's for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools" (3T's stand for training, testing & telling) which set the standard of 20 ppb for a 250 mL (*milliliter*) water sample.

In my September 2016 letter, I announced that as we began the school year all test results for lead in our drinking water were below the EPA's standard of 20 ppb (*parts per billion*) for a 250 mL (*milliliter*) water sample. Under the new threshold, however, the District does have two additional faucets that will immediately be shut-off pending further guidance on the new law. One faucet is located in a classroom sink in the art room at Liberty Elementary, which was at 18.1 ppb; the other faucet is in the boy's bathroom sink in the Field House at the Middle School and was at 18.7 ppb (for a 250 mL water sample). Except for these two, all other results of our previous tests were under the newly established threshold of 15 ppb. The sink at Liberty and the Field House will remain shut-down until the remediation protocol has been successfully completed.

Rockland BOCES Health and Safety is working very closely with the Rockland County Department of Health and we anticipate further guidance relative to the new law very soon. In the meantime, the District remains proactive relative to the health and safety of our students and staff and we will continue to comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations.

Sincerely,

James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

JJM:ld

**Si ou bezwen enfòmasyon tradui an kreyòl, rele Jocelyne Abraham nan 353-7044.
Si le hace falta información traducida en español, llame a Yesenia Polanco 353-7042.**