

## WATER TESTING POLICY

### PREAMBLE

In accordance with Testing Lead Content in Drinking Water of Independent School Facilities, effective January 1, 2017, independent school boards are expected to test for lead content in drinking water in their school facilities to ensure it meets the provincial requirement as established by the Ministry of Health.

The Board should take reasonable and prompt steps to resolve any elevated lead levels that are outside the established guideline on any drinking water quality test results.

### RATIONALE

School health and safety is a concern shared by all parties in the K-12 education system. This policy provides the minimum requirements for testing lead content in drinking water of school facilities, reporting of the results, and mitigation strategies to eliminate or reduce any risks to students and staff.

### POLICY

All water suppliers in the province are required to test their water regularly. This includes small private systems (such as restaurants), cooperatively owned systems (such as strata properties), and larger municipal systems owned by local governments. Independent schools are also responsible for ensuring the quality of water and plumbing within their systems. Independent school facilities must comply with the enactments of British Columbia, including those relating to health, safety and water quality.

The Ministry of Education is monitoring all testing and the Board will complete lead content testing **once every three years.**

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1. Testing  
-The Board established a water quality lead testing program that will occur once every **three years.**

## 2. Communication

-The Principal will refer to the online reporting tool developed by the Ministry for Independent Schools (2017/18) and file a report of the testing results.

-If the testing finds drinking water concentration of lead above the acceptable level, the principal will immediately inform the Board Chair and inform the Independent Schools Branch of the issue. Then the principal will work collaboratively with Island Health to communicate the results of testing lead content in drinking water to parents, students and staff by describing the following:

- rationale for testing lead in drinking water
- identify partnership with the Health Authority to work toward a solution
- state the results of sampling
- identify mitigation strategies implemented or being considered by the authority
- provide contact information for the authority and the Regional Health Authority for parents, students, and staff to request further information.
- will supply bottled drinking water for the interim.

## 3. Mitigation Strategies

-If sample results reveal lead levels exceeding concentration of 0.010 mg/l (based on maximum allowable concentration in Health Canada's Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality), the Board will undertake strategies which may include:

- flushing regimes
- disable fountains and water systems to eliminate the risk of lead exposure
- installation of filtration systems
- plumbing upgrades
- other steps that result in reducing the exposure to lead to acceptable levels.