

TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION		
SCHOOL WATER TESTING		3212
ADOPTED: April 9, 2021	REVISED:	MONITORING: Review: Annually

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Any authorized charter school located in a facility built before January 1, 1998 shall test for lead in drinking water every two (2) years.¹ Any authorized charter school located in a facility built on or after January 1, 1998 may conduct such testing. Testing shall utilize samples consisting of the first two hundred fifty milliliters (250 mL) drawn of water that has been standing in plumbing overnight to identify lead levels.

Authorized charter schools should consult Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) technical guidance on how to conduct a sampling program.² Analysis of water samples shall be conducted by a certified laboratory.

Authorized charter schools required to conduct testing shall certify to the Commission that testing has been completed within two (2) weeks of samples being collected and sent for testing.

RESPONSE TO TESTING RESULTS

If test results show that lead levels exceed fifteen parts per billion (15 ppb) but are below twenty parts per billion (20 ppb), the school shall notify the Director of Schools, and the school shall conduct lead level tests on an annual basis. These annual tests shall continue until tests show that the lead levels are under fifteen parts per billion (15 ppb).

If test results show that lead levels equal or exceed twenty parts per billion (20 ppb), the school shall immediately remove the drinking water source from service. The drinking water source shall not be available for use until retesting confirms the water lead level does not exceed twenty parts per billion (20 ppb). If corrective action is taken, retesting shall occur within ninety (90) days.

The school leader/designee shall notify the appropriate authorities within twenty-four (24) hours of a test result showing that lead levels equal or exceed twenty parts per billion (20 ppb). Appropriate authorities include, but are not limited to, the Tennessee Commissioner of Environment and Conservation, the Commissioner of Health, the local department of health, the Director of Schools, and the Tennessee Department of Education. Parent(s)/guardian(s) of students enrolled at the school shall be notified within five (5) business days of such test result.

¹ T.C.A. § 49-2-133

² [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools, Revised Technical Guidance, 2018.](#)