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October 10, 2024

Kamal Johnson
Facilities Management Team
Uncommon Schools
100 Church Street, 9th Floor
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For distribution

RE: **Lead in Drinking Water Sampling**
North Star Academy – Vailsburg Campus
24 Hazelwood Ave
Newark, NJ 07106
EL Project # 21-0015

To Whom it May Concern:

North Star Academy Schools are committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect the North Star community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, North Star Academy retained Environmental Logic, LLC (EL) to test the school's drinking water for lead.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the North Star Academy system was prepared. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. The US Environmental Protection Agency has established a lead in drinking water action level of 15 µg/l [ppb]. On July 9, 2024 and September 25, 2024 EL collected drinking water samples throughout the aforementioned school.

No lead concentrations exceeding 15 µg/l [ppb] were identified in drinking water outlets or food preparation sinks.

Health Effects of Lead
High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years of age. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At *very* high levels, lead can even cause brain damage. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

For More Information

A copy of the test results is available at the Clinton Hill Middle School central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents. The results are also available on the North Star Academy website at https://northstar.uncommonschools.org/lead-results/. For more information about water quality in the North Star Academy schools, contact Kamal Johnson, Regional Facilities Manager at Kamal.Johnson@uncommonschools.org.

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.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

Chris Esposito, LSRP
Vice President

Enclosures: Full Analytical Data Table

Table 1

Vailsburg Elementary School
24 Hazelwood Avenue
Newark, NJ 07106

Lead in Drinking Water Sampling Results

Sample ID: Lab ID: Date Sampled: Analyte	NJ Drinking Water Quality Standards (NJAC 7:10 9/18) (µg/L)	GF-S1 24G1006-01 7/9/2024	GF-KS-1 24G1006-02 7/9/2024	GF-WFS-1 24G1006-03 7/9/2024	GF-BF-1 24G1006-04 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R102 24G1006-05 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R103 24G1006-06 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R104 24G1006-07 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R105 24G1006-08 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R106 24G1006-09 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R108 24G1006-10 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R109 24G1006-11 7/9/2024
Lead	15	<2.0	2.15	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	2.26	<2.0

RL - Reporting Limit
µg/L - Microgram Per Liter
<2.0 - Indicates no detection above the RL

Sample ID: Lab ID: Date Sampled: Analyte	NJ Drinking Water Quality Standards (NJAC 7:10 9/18) (µg/L)	F1-WF-R111 24G1006-12 7/9/2024	F1-WC-R112 24G1006-13 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R113 24G1006-14 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R115 24G1006-15 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R117 24G1006-16 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R119 24G1006-17 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R120 24G1006-18 7/9/2024	F1-WC-R121 24G1006-19 7/9/2024	F1-CWL-R121 24G1006-20 7/9/2024	F1-WF-R122 24G1006-21 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R202 24G1006-22 7/9/2024
Lead	15	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	2.66	2.21	3.65	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0

RL - Reporting Limit
µg/L - Microgram Per Liter
<2.0 - Indicates no detection above the RL

Sample ID: Lab ID: Date Sampled: Analyte	NJ Drinking Water Quality Standards (NJAC 7:10 9/18) (µg/L)	F2-WF-R203 24G1006-23 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R204 24G1006-24 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R205 24G1006-25 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R206 24G1006-26 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R208 24G1006-27 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R209 24G1006-28 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R211 24G1006-29 7/9/2024	F2-CWL-R212D 24G1006-30 7/9/2024	F2-WC-R212D 24G1006-31 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R213 24G1006-32 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R214 24G1006-33 7/9/2024
Lead	15	2.37	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	2.56	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0

RL - Reporting Limit
µg/L - Microgram Per Liter
<2.0 - Indicates no detection above the RL

Sample ID: Lab ID: Date Sampled: Analyte	NJ Drinking Water Quality Standards (NJAC 7:10 9/18) (µg/L)	F2-WF-R216 24G1006-34 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R217 24G1006-35 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R219 24G1006-36 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R220 24G1006-37 7/9/2024	F2-WF-R222 24G1006-38 7/9/2024	F1-Nurse 24G1006-39 7/9/2024	F1-WFS-1 24G1006-40 7/9/2024	F1-BF-1 24G1006-41 7/9/2024	F1-WFT-2 24G1006-42 7/9/2024	F1-WFS-2 24G1006-43 7/9/2024	F1-BF-2 24G1006-44 7/9/2024
Lead	15	6.21	<2.0	2.16	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0

RL - Reporting Limit
µg/L - Microgram Per Liter
<2.0 - Indicates no detection above the RL

Sample ID: Lab ID: Date Sampled: Analyte	NJ Drinking Water Quality Standards (NJAC 7:10 9/18) (µg/L)	GYM-WFS 24G1006-45 7/9/2024	F2-WF-1 24I2658-01 9/25/2024	F2-BF-1 24I2658-02 9/25/2024	F2-WF-2 24I2658-03 9/25/2024	F2-BF-2 24I2658-04 9/25/2024
Lead	15	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0

RL - Reporting Limit
µg/L - Microgram Per Liter
<2.0 - Indicates no detection above the RL

Indicates the result is above the NJ Drinking Water Standards