Policy Number: 808
Adopted: September 2023
Revised:

RMSA'S LEAD TESTING POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of students, staff, and visitors by minimizing exposure to lead in the school environment. This policy outlines the procedures and guidelines for testing lead levels in school facilities and the actions to be taken in case of elevated lead levels.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

This policy applies to all school facilities, including classrooms, offices, cafeterias, gymnasium, playgrounds, and any other areas frequented by students, staff, and visitors.

III. LEAD TESTING PROCEDURES

Testing: The school administration will conduct initial lead testing in all school facilities to establish baseline lead levels. This testing will be performed by qualified professionals using appropriate methods and equipment according to MDH/EPA guidance and regulations.

Frequency of Testing: Lead testing will be conducted once every two years to ensure ongoing monitoring of lead levels in school facilities.

Sampling Locations: Sampling locations will include areas with potential lead exposure, such as water sources, painted surfaces, soil in playgrounds, and other relevant areas.

Testing Methods: The school will use accredited laboratories and approved testing methods for accurate assessment of lead levels. This may include water testing, paint chip analysis, and soil testing as necessary.

IV. COMMUNICATION

1- The results of lead testing will be communicated to relevant stakeholders, including school staff, parents, and local health authorities.
2- A link for the results will be made available in the school's website in a clear and understandable manner.

V. ACTION LEVELS AND RESPONSES

1- **Action Levels**:
   a- The school will adhere to lead level guidelines set forth MDH, EPA guidelines and relevant regulations.
   b- Action levels will be established for different areas based on these guidelines.

2- **Elevated Lead Levels:** In the event of elevated lead levels exceeding established action levels, the following steps will be taken:

   a- **Immediate Mitigation:** Any area with elevated lead levels will be immediately taken out of use if applicable.
   b- **Notification:** Parents, staff, and relevant authorities will be promptly notified about the elevated lead levels, the specific areas affected, and the steps being taken to address the issue.
   c- **Mitigation Plan:** The school will develop a comprehensive mitigation plan outlining the steps to be taken to reduce lead exposure in affected areas. This plan may include repair, replacement, or remediation of affected materials.
   d- **Re-Testing:** After mitigation measures have been implemented, affected areas will be re-tested to ensure that lead levels have been brought within acceptable limits.

VI. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

1- **Regular Maintenance:** The school will implement regular maintenance practices, such as repairing peeling or chipped paint, to prevent the deterioration of lead-containing materials.
2- **Water Quality:** Regular testing of drinking water sources will be conducted to ensure that lead levels are within acceptable limits. Plumbing fixtures with lead components will be identified and replaced as needed.
3- **Educational Outreach:** The school will conduct educational programs to raise awareness among students, staff, and parents about lead exposure risks and preventive measures.

VII. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the school administration to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Any necessary revisions will be made to reflect changes in regulations, guidelines, or best practices.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 121A.344 (Lead in school water)
MDH, Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
Relevant State laws and Regulations