

Water Safety Questions and Answers

Q. Will BISD provide lead testing for students or staff?

A: The district is not able to provide medical testing directly. However, any parent, student, or staff member concerned about possible exposure is encouraged to consult their healthcare provider. To support families, BISD will share **trusted resources** that explain the health effects of lead, how to access testing, and what steps to take if exposure is suspected:

-  [DOH Lead in Schools – FAQ](#)
-  [CDC – Testing for Lead Poisoning in Children](#)

Our priority is ensuring safe drinking water in schools, but we also want families to have the information they need to make health decisions with their providers.

Q. Why is this being addressed now if the testing was done in 2019–2020?

A: That is an excellent and fair question. The Department of Health recently released statewide data, which included BISD's 2019–2020 results. While remediation steps were taken at the time, this new release raised understandable concerns. That's why we are reviewing all past remediation efforts, re-testing every fixture across BISD with an independent contractor, and taking extra precautionary steps such as adding filters and portable water stations. Our goal is to ensure every family feels confident that drinking water in BISD is safe.

Q: Why are we hearing about lead in BISD water now?

A: The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recently released water testing results from K–12 schools across the state, including BISD. Some of the data released was from 2019–2020 testing, and we believe remediation work was done at that time. Even so, BISD is reviewing all past results and taking additional steps now to ensure the safety of our water.

Q: How often is school drinking water tested?

A: State law (E2SHB 1139, adopted in 2021) requires all drinking water outlets in schools built before 2016 to be tested by June 30, 2026, and then at least every five years thereafter. BISD is taking action sooner by hiring a contractor to test all fixtures in all facilities.

Q: What is considered a “safe” level of lead in water?

A: In 2021, Washington law lowered the action level for lead in school water to 5 parts per billion (ppb) to match federal CDC guidelines. Any fixture with results above 5 ppb must be addressed.

Q: What are BISD's immediate steps to keep students safe?

A:

- Reviewing all 2019–2020 test results.
- Hiring a certified water-testing contractor to re-test all fixtures across BISD.
- Installing filters on any fixture that tested above 5 ppb in 2019–2020 until new test results are available.
- Providing portable water stations at locations where fixtures tested above 5 ppb.
- Prioritizing fixtures that had elevated results in 2019–2020 for the first round of contractor testing.

Q: What happens if new test results come back above 5 ppb?

A: Any fixture with a sample above 5 ppb will be retested immediately. If a second test also exceeds 5 ppb, BISD will take immediate mitigation and remediation steps to address the fixture.

Q: How can parents see the test results for BISD schools?

A: The DOH publishes statewide school testing data here:

👉 [DOH Lead in Schools – Test Results](#)

Q: Where can I learn more about lead testing in schools?

A: The DOH also provides answers to common questions here:

👉 [DOH Lead in Schools – FAQ](#)