

EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
199 4TH Avenue
East Orange, New Jersey 07017-4803
Phone (973) 266-5760 Fax (973) 678-4865
www.eastorange.k12.nj.us

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Acting Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Gloria P. Watson
gloria.watson@eastorange.k12.nj.us

Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Deborah Harvest

Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Gayle Griffin

April 21, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been with much gratitude and appreciation that I recently accepted the board's appointment to serve as the Acting Superintendent of the East Orange School District. Although I am not new to the district, many of the parents, students and/or staff, I have been visiting schools to introduce myself to some and to become reacquainted with others.

Of course as soon as I took on the challenges of being the acting superintendent, there was a great deal of media coverage relative to the drinking water in Flint, Michigan. Shortly thereafter, a high level of lead was found in the drinking water in a neighboring school district. The East Orange School District immediately recognized the need to protect the health and safety of our students and staff. As a precautionary method, we proactively hired a reputable third party vendor in order to assess the level of lead in all of our schools within the East Orange School District. Samples of water were taken on March 14th and 25th from all 22 schools (and our 1 administrative building) and submitted to a New Jersey Certified Laboratory for lead testing.

An analysis was conducted using EPA Method 200. Results of the testing were recently made available to the District Central Office and we are happy to inform you that all of the water samples tested at all of the schools (and administrative building) were well below the EPA action level for lead; therefore, **Federal and State Guidelines do not require any further actions to be taken.** However we are taking steps beyond the federal guidelines (quarterly testing, filters, etc.) to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of our valued EO students.

As a district, we will continue to be proactive and keep you abreast of any issues that may arise. Additionally, I humbly seek your support and assistance as I serve as your acting superintendent.

Respectfully,

Gloria P. Watson, Ed. D.