



For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Contact: Lynn Battle
(334) 271-7955

**Alabama State Department of Education and Alabama
Department of Environmental Management
to Assist in Determining Lead Levels in Drinking Water
in Pre-K through 12 Public Schools**

Montgomery, Ala. – In an effort to promote public confidence and to help schools minimize students’ and staffs’ exposure to possible high levels of lead in drinking water, the Alabama State Department of Education ([ALSDE](#)) in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management ([ADEM](#)) will assist all Pre-K through 12 public school systems with voluntary testing for lead in drinking water over the next three years.

There has been a tremendous amount of interest nation-wide in the quality of public drinking water, particularly with respect to lead levels in drinking water in schools. Under the [Safe Drinking Water Act](#) (SDWA), public water systems are required to test for lead at least once every three years at residences deemed to have the greatest potential for high lead levels, but there is no federal or Alabama state law requiring testing of drinking water in schools, except for those that have and/or operate their own public water system. Alabama has only two such schools.

In a process that began in July, 2016, ALSDE and ADEM developed a draft “Master Plan to Determine Lead Levels in Drinking Water in Pre-K thru 12 Public Schools” that goes above and beyond federal and state regulatory requirements. Samples will be analyzed by state-certified private laboratories. All results

will be submitted to ALSDE and ADEM, as well as local school systems. The results will also be placed in the ADEM eFile system for internet access by the public-at-large. The ADEM eFile system can be accessed at www.adem.alabama.gov.

For more information, please contact ALSDE Communications at 334-242-9950 or comm@alsde.edu or ADEM External Affairs at 334-271-7955 or public.affairs@adem.alabama.gov.

#