

Lead in School Program Timeline

2018 through 2019 – Developed Lead in School Program

November 21, 2019 – DEQ awarded \$192,000 (FY19) from EPA's Lead Testing in School and Childcare Program Drinking Water Grant. The grant was used to cover laboratory costs associated with lead sampling in schools. Funding can only be used for sample related activities.

January 17, 2020 - Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) adopted amendments to the administrative rules regarding the matter of health in Montana schools. The amendments included requirements pertaining to reducing lead in schools' drinking water. It requires all schools accredited by the Montana Board of Public Education to sample for lead in schools' drinking water. ([Administrative Rules of Montana 37.11.832](#)).

January 22, 2020 – DEQ/DPHHS presented at MT Rural Water's Annual Small Systems and Colony Operators Training Conference. Presented general overview of the Lead in School program.

January/February 2020 – Notification of the Lead sampling program was sent out to all schools.

Winter/Spring/Summer 2020 – Held a number of Lead in School Working Group Meetings to discuss school communication, prioritizing school sampling, training, and funding. Agencies and associations in attendance included:

- Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Office of Public Instruction
- MT Association of School Business Officials
- MT Educators Association
- MT Quality Education Association
- MT Rural Education Association
- MT School Board Association
- School Administrators of Montana

May 29, 2020 – Finalized Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DEQ and OPI to create a Lead Remediation Reimbursement Program for schools. OPI will manage the program and DEQ provided the \$40,000 in funding.

July 28, 2020 – Joint Press Release with DEQ and Kalispell Public Schools summarizing the Kalispell's schools recent lead results and the lead in school program.

October 15, 2020 – DEQ/DPHHS presented at the MT Conference of Education Leadership (MCEL) conference.

October 2020 – Finalized contracts with 2 technical assistance providers (MT Rural Water and Midwest Assistance Program) to provide schools assistance with the Lead in School program.

Throughout 2020 – A number of lead in school reminders were included in OPI's monthly newsletters.

2/25/2021 – Lead in School Working Group Meeting – Provided a program update to the group on results, database changes, communication, and funding.

May 18, 2021 – DEQ awarded an additional \$265,000 (FY20) from EPA's Lead Testing in School and Childcare Program Drinking Water Grant. The grant funding will continue to be used to cover laboratory costs associated with lead sampling in schools.

June 2, 2021 - Lead in School Working Group Meeting – Provided a program update to the group on results, database changes, communication, and funding.

July 08, 2021 - DEQ awarded an additional \$265,000 (FY21) from EPA's Lead Testing in School and Childcare Program Drinking Water Grant. The grant funding will continue to be used to cover laboratory costs associated with lead sampling in schools. Total grant funds are \$722,000.

August 10, 2021 – Joint Press Release with DEQ and DPHHS urging schools to test for lead in their drinking water.

September 1, 2021 – Water flushing plans were required to be submitted to DEQ.

September 27, 2021 – DEQ/DPHHS presented at the MT Association of School Business Officials conference.

October 7, 2021 – DEQ/DPHHS presented a MT State Fund webinar held for school facility staff.

October 21, 2021 - October 15, 2020 – DEQ/DPHHS presented at the MT Conference of Education Leadership (MCEL) conference.

December 31, 2021 – All initial sampling was supposed to be completed. Due to issues associated with the Covid pandemic, DPHHS is being flexible with the sampling due date and encouraging schools to sample.

January/February 2022 – Targeted communications to schools that have not sampled yet.

January 27, 2022 – Presented at the Infrastructure Advisory Commission.

February 15, 2022 – DEQ presented at OPI's Education Advocates Meeting.

March 11, 2022 – DEQ presented at the Water Pollution Control Advisory Council meeting.

March 12, 2022 – DEQ presented at Lincoln County's Board of Health meeting.

March 24, 2022 – DEQ presented at the annual MT Rural Water Conference.

April 15, 2022 - Lead in School Working Group Meeting – Provided a program update to the group on results, database changes, communication, and funding.

April 20, 2022 – Presented at the Infrastructure Advisory Commission.

April 21, 2022 – DEQ presented at the annual Montana Municipal Institute for town clerks, treasurers, and local elected officials.

May 18, 2022 – Presented at the Water Policy Interim Committee.

May 26, 2022 - Presented at the Infrastructure Advisory Commission.

June 8, 2022 – Presented at the Education Interim Committee.

June 23, 2022 - Presented at the Infrastructure Advisory Commission.

June 30, 2022 – Joint Press Release with DEQ, DPHHS and OPI emphasizing the use of ESSER funds to assistance with Lead remediation in schools.

July 13, 2022 – Presented at the annual FSMC Facility Conference for school facility managers and custodians.

July 21, 2022 - OPI Working Group Meeting – Discussed creating a unified message so all agencies (DEQ, DPHHS, OPI and Commerce) involved with the Lead in School Program can effectively communicate with schools.

January 2020 – July 2022 – Participated in dozens of media interviews (TV, radio, and newspaper).