

Lead Testing: Report on SB 550 –

SB 550 requires that public and nonpublic school buildings constructed on or before January 1, 2000 and occupied by more than 10 children or students, pre-kindergarten through grade 5 shall test each source of potable water for lead contamination. Potable water is non-bottled water that may be ingested by children or used for food preparation that exits any tap, faucet, drinking fountain, wash basin in a classroom occupied by children or students under grade 1 [but does not include bathroom sinks and wash basins used by janitorial staff].

For school buildings constructed prior to January 1, 1987, the sampling and analysis must be completed by December 31, 2017; and for school buildings constructed between January 2, 1987 and January 1, 2000, the sampling and analysis must be completed by December 31, 2018. The written sampling results shall be sent to the Dept. of Public Health within 7 business days of receipt of the results.

The Department of Public Health shall post on its website within 90 days of the effective date of this bill [the date the governor signs the bill] guidance on mitigation actions for lead in drinking water. THERE IS NO MANDATORY MITIGATION REQUIRED IN THE BILL. The feeling at this point is that notifying the parents will be sufficient to get a school to do proper mitigation.

All costs for the testing and analysis are to be the responsibility of the nonpublic schools while the public schools can use the Life Safety Funds, and Tort Immunity Funds.

The limitation of a school building having an occupancy of more than 10 children or students was a concession to see that private home-based schools were exempt.

The full text can be found at:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/99/SB/PDF/09900SB0550lv.pdf>

A List of accredited Testing Labs:

<http://www.epa.illinois.gov/Assets/iepa/certification-training/labs/accredited-labs-condensed.pdf>