



SAN MATEO
COUNTY
OFFICE OF
EDUCATION

Anne E. Campbell • County Superintendent of Schools

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: MARCO CHÁVEZ

mchavez@smcoe.org
650.802.5553

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School District Water Testing in San Mateo County

REDWOOD CITY, CA – The issue of water quality in public facilities has been receiving attention in communities across the country. In light of that, and to be proactive about water safety, school districts in San Mateo County will be conducting water quality testing this fall.

California has some of the most stringent water quality standards in the nation, and the protocols our local water agencies have in place are consistent with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines. While our schools do not have reason to believe their water exceeds thresholds set by the EPA, they do have an obligation to ensure student safety. For that reason, the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) is providing guidance and resources to local school districts as they embark upon water testing.

San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Anne Campbell commented, “I am impressed with the steps our schools are taking to be sure their drinking water meets EPA standards. The County Office of Education appreciates the opportunity to work together with our local districts in this vitally important effort. Our schools are committed to communicating with their families and staffs about water quality testing, and they have been extremely proactive in meeting the challenges involved. I know they will continue to keep their communities informed as the water testing proceeds.”

This also serves as a valuable and timely reminder that schools aren't the only places where students drink water. As we go through the testing at our school sites, we hope families will consider taking steps to ensure the water quality in their homes is safe, especially if they have children younger than school-age. The EPA has valuable guidance on identifying and fixing any potential hazards, which can be accessed at <https://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-exposures-lead#homeleadsafe>.

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The San Mateo County Office of Education is dedicated to serving our county's 23 school districts and helping deliver a top-rate educational experience for our nearly 94,000 students.