



# GENESEEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEADERSHIP ♦ SERVICE ♦ INNOVATION *Partnering for success!*

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Dear Parents and Educators:

I am certain that, like many people in our community, you are concerned about the news regarding Flint's water supply. You are undoubtedly hearing a multitude of information and news which can cause more confusion and worry. Because so much information is being distributed, I wanted to be sure that you receive current and accurate information about the effects of lead and how the situation is being addressed in the educational community. The Genesee Intermediate School District serves approximately 19,000 children who reside within the Flint water boundary who are 4 years of age or older. These students reside in Flint, but through the school of choice program, over 10,000 attend a charter school or another school district. Additionally, we serve over one thousand birth to 3 year olds in home based, Head Start and playgroup programs. We have been working directly with local, state, and federal offices to expand programming and services for families and children who are affected by the water. Our program expansions include additional home based staff for developmental assessments, cognitive or behavioral testing, additional health professionals, fresh and nutritious food choices during the day and weekends, extended school year opportunities, and a heavy focus on literacy and early childhood which has been proven to benefit children who may have impaired cognitive development. This is only a beginning. Our goal is to meet the immediate needs of our children and families and continue to plan for long range successful programs for children.

GISD has compiled various resources to assist Flint area families and educators with important and useful information pertaining to the Flint water crisis. The information includes details about water sources for GISD buildings and program locations, as well as information specific to students served by GISD. Additionally, important information and resources from various local and state agencies is also available by visiting <http://bit.ly/1QNYMn1>. If you have further concerns, I encourage you to read the Centers for Disease Control website on lead contamination of water at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/leadinwater/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm>.

The difficulty with situations such as lead poisoning is that there are little to no immediate signs of illness or difficulty. Continued blood testing is not recommended by health professionals, because after 28 days away from lead, the tests will not show any effects. This can be misleading and can be taken as a false conclusion that there is no damage or poisoning. The best course of action if you are uncertain, is to contact your primary doctor.

Please know that we are deploying every resource at our disposal to ensure the safety of those we serve. We will continue to work with federal, state, and local officials to help create long-term solutions and services to meet the needs of our students and families.

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