

Ensuring Safe and Clean Water at Clear Creek Middle/High School (3.11.25)

The Clear Creek School District has been closely monitoring water quality at Clear Creek Middle/High School over the past few years to ensure it is safe for students, staff, and visitors. Due to past concerns about potential contaminants, bottled water stations have been available throughout the school as a precautionary measure.

This school year, the district took additional steps to evaluate water safety. We conducted extensive water testing at multiple locations within the school, checking for a range of chemicals and potential contaminants. We also collaborated with the Lookout Mountain Water District (LMWD) to ensure that the water provided to the school meets health and safety standards.

What the CCSD Found

The results of our water tests showed that all tested areas were **below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This means the water meets federal safety standards and is considered safe to drink.

Additionally, LMWD has reassured us that the school receives some of the **cleanest water in the state**. The water comes from a high-quality source with minimal risk of contamination. Furthermore, because Clear Creek Middle/High School is one of the first customers on the distribution line, the risk of contaminants accumulating over time is significantly reduced.

Ongoing Improvements to Water Quality

Over the past year, LMWD has implemented several improvements to further enhance water quality, including:

- ★ Installing a **new mixing and ventilation system** to improve water circulation.
- ★ **Flushing water lines annually**, including those at the school.
- ★ **Adjusting chlorine levels** at treatment facilities.
- ★ Implementing a **new pre-treatment system** to enhance water quality.
- ★ Conducting **monthly water testing** and sharing results with CCSD, including HAA5 and TTHMs (a specific point of concern in the past).

If future water quality concerns arise, bottled water stations will be provided as needed in the school setting.

Understanding Past Water Quality Concerns

Previous concerns about **Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)**—byproducts of chlorine treatment—were linked to stagnant water sitting in service lines. One of the best ways to prevent this is using water more frequently throughout the school. Currently, the school's water usage averages **1,000-1,500 gallons per day** during the school year and about **500 gallons per day** during summer months.

Next Steps: Transitioning

CCSD is committed to keeping students, staff, and families informed about water quality. In the coming weeks, the district will hold further meetings as needed with students, staff, and others to discuss our testing results and answer questions. Additionally, after Spring Break the Clear Creek MS/HS will transition away from bottled water and to the utilization of the water stations located throughout the building.

What Water Testing Took Place?

Our water quality tests included checks for:

Alkalinity, Arsenic, Cadmium, Calcium, Coliform Bacteria, Chloride, Conductivity, Copper, Corrosivity,

Fluoride, Hardness, Iron, Lead, Magnesium, Manganese, Nitrate/Nitrite, pH, Sodium, Sodium Absorption Ratio, Sulfate, Total Dissolved Solids, Uranium, and Zinc.

Additionally, to address past concerns the district conducted follow-up tests specifically for **Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)**.

The safety of our students and staff is a top priority, and we will continue to monitor and improve water quality to ensure a healthy learning environment for all.