

## **New Jersey Future Report on Lead in School Drinking Water**

### **Recommendations as summarized by UUFAEJ**

- The Department of Education should create a standardized electronic collection system and require the all districts to submit or re-submit their most recent lead testing results
- All school testing results, even if negative, should be submitted to the DOE.
- School testing results should be made available publicly, so parents can learn easily about conditions in their children's schools
- The DOE should work with the DEP to develop requirements for school districts to provide more clarification as to the type of water outlets testing positive and the frequency of usage.
- The state should provide schools with a list of preferred vendors, determined through an RFP process, for conducting lead testing and providing bottled water and filters.
- The state should support better data collection, compilation of data statewide, and identification of heavily-used drinking sources.
- The state should take a leadership role in helping low-income communities test for and remediate lead in school drinking water and provide funding and technical assistance to make this happen. The state should also work with the federal government to obtain federal funding for this remediation, as has been proposed in bills introduced by Sens. Booker and Duckworth and Reps. Pallone and Gottheimer.
- In the short-term, the state's school funding formula/program should factor in the need that economically distressed schools may have for financial assistance to take the contaminated outlets out of service and temporarily supply bottled water or install filter systems.
- The governor and/or the commissioner of the Department of Education or the Department of Health should develop a high-profile informational campaign to remind parents and pregnant women of the risk of lead exposure and encourage all parents to check with their local school district for the results of lead testing and remediation.
- The state needs to modernize its inadequate drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in ways that strengthen our communities. The state needs to continue its important efforts to address the presence of lead in water at home, a result of lead service lines (pipes that connect the water main to the home) and internal lead plumbing fittings and fixtures.