



ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

David M. Brown
Chief Administration Officer
400 Lake Street, P.O. Box 549, Ithaca, New York 14851
Tel: (607) 882-9542

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Dear community, families and caregivers:

I am writing to provide an update on water quality in the Ithaca City School District. As you may be aware, we turned off consumptive water sources in all school district buildings in January 2016. We have been supplying the district with certified 5-gallon drinking water stations that are unconnected to building plumbing.

Along with shutting off water sources and providing certified drinking water, we hired the engineering firm LaBella Associates to assist with testing and problem solving. LaBella Associates also assists us as we interface with the Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD), State Department of Health, and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This team collaborates on a weekly basis to provide guidance in resolving all water quality issues.

As of Thursday September 1st, we will be turning on consumptive sources of water in the Q Building at Ithaca High School (Athletic Building).

- Q building was part of the new construction in the 2009/2010 Bond Project, and therefore used newer plumbing and fixtures.
- The results of consumptive water tests, in Q building, were all below 1 part per billion (ppb). The EPA action level for public water systems is 15 ppb.
- TCHD has approved ICSD to turn on these consumptive sources of water.
- The consumptive sources of water to be turned on include one ice machine, one sink used for filling bottles and portable water coolers, and two water fountains.

Additionally, we are working with TCHD and LaBella to implement the addition of a phosphate-based corrosion inhibitor to the Enfield and Caroline water systems, which are each supplied by their own wells. We will monitor the effectiveness of this initiative over the next couple of months. While we implement the inhibitor we will continue to provide certified bottled water in these schools.

Furthermore, certified bottled water will continue to be provided to all buildings as we continue to ensure the systems meet the required standards for drinking water.

Sincerely,

David Brown