

Reimbursement for Remediation of Lead in School Drinking Water (Public Health Law 1110)

Expenses for remediation of lead in school drinking water (performed for compliance period 2026-2028) are fully reimbursable from New York State (NYS).

Eligible Expenses

- Post-remediation sampling.
- “Do Not Drink” signage for water outlets taken out of service or equivalent signage.
- Installation of individual outlet water filtration systems (note: future replacement filters will not be reimbursable).
- Replacement of taps.
- Replacement of fountains/bubblers.
- Replacement of readily accessible cold water supply piping that does not impact other building components (walls, cabinets, flooring, hazardous materials, etc).
- Permanent removal of outlets.
- Installation of engineering controls such as locks or special keys to prevent access to outlets.

Considerations

- Reimbursement is available only for remediation of outlets that exceed the action level of 5ppb based on samples taken during the current compliance period.
- Certain projects require a permit from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) before bidding or work can begin. These include:
 - Supply piping replacement projects not covered under eligible expenses.
 - Remediation work involving suspected or known hazardous materials.
 - Building projects over \$10,000.
- Projects covered by State Building Aid cannot be reimbursed through Lead in Drinking Water reimbursement funds. Schools may separate the lead in water remediation projects from larger projects to request this funding.

Reimbursement Requests

- Health Commerce System (HCS) reporters will add reimbursement information into the existing Survey Management and Response Tool (SMART) School Lead in Drinking Water Survey by building. This is to be done after remediation is complete and post-remediation sampling results are available.
 - Only submit one request per building. Do not overwrite reimbursement requests.
- Schools must also submit Form “FB” to NYSED, which now includes an attestation related to lead in drinking water remediation reimbursement.
- **Each year, reimbursement requests must be submitted by December 31st** in order to be eligible, reviewed, and approved by the New York State Department of Health.
 - The State Department of Health will aggregate reimbursement requests for all schools in a district.
 - NYSED will distribute reimbursement funds to the school district or BOCES by the end of the fiscal year.

New York State
School Environmental Health Program

