



GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEADERSHIP ♦ SERVICE ♦ INNOVATION *Partnering for success!*

2413 West Maple Avenue, Flint, Michigan 48507-3493
(810) 591-4400 Fax (810) 591-7570
www.geneseeisd.org

January 28, 2016

Dear Staff,

It is difficult to know exactly how to begin this letter. We are all experiencing very difficult times due to the Flint water situation. The children and families of Flint are our children and families. They are a part of our fiber and what they are experiencing is very difficult to comprehend.

This communication is intended to provide you with some much needed information and reassurance. Our focus at GISD has been, and will continue to be, on the families and the educational, behavioral, and developmental needs of children. This situation has far reaching consequences for all districts in Genesee County as a result of the School of Choice Program in Michigan. We are focusing on all ages and working with many entities to strengthen our systems and programs to meet the current and future needs of children from birth through grade twelve. Our early childhood programs, home visiting programs, Early On, extended year, nutritional and behavioral trainings are all quality programs which will continue to be very effective in providing developmentally appropriate strategies for young children.

We are working with state and local agencies, the Governor's office, MDE, and state and county officials to secure funds, donations and information. These resources will be used to provide training, health related services, additional early childhood and special education programming, coordination, and specialized personnel along with a multitude of other strategies involving nutrition, extended school year, and other focused support.

Several of you have inquired about the water sources to GISD facilities. That information is available for all of our buildings on our website at www.geneseeisd.org under the Water and Lead Education link.

We have been utilizing bottled water at our Head Start sites in Flint for the past 14 months due to other water related concerns. Additionally, many of you are educating yourselves and asking for information on the effects of lead to adults and children. Lead is a neurotoxicant and can impair development, intellectual functioning, and cause behavioral problems. These vary from individual to individual and may also have no noticeable impact. Again, there is a cadre of resources, studies and information on our website that can help in becoming more aware and sharing accurate information with others.

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

Our water testing will continue. However, we will still be using bottled water in our programs indefinitely at this time. We also know that good nutrition, and an iron fortified diet, are effective in providing better health and may possibly help young children to excrete lead. Therefore, those foods will be distributed via school lunches, snacks, and backpack programs.

We plan to continue posting updated information and current resources on our website and encourage you to utilize the information as appropriate. If you are aware of families in need of water, we have been using our current systems to help get the water to them. Please let your administrator know. Additionally, multiple ISDs are now conducting literacy drives to accept age appropriate books and materials for us to provide to children as they are learning to read.

Cindy A. Gansen, President ♦ Dr. Paul D. Newman, Vice President
Dale A. Green, Secretary ♦ Lawrence P. Ford, Treasurer ♦ Jerry G. Ragsdale, Trustee

Dr. Lisa A. Hagel, Superintendent ♦ Dr. Keely P. Mounger, Deputy Superintendent ♦ Mary K. Behm, Assistant Superintendent
Cynthia A. McCain, Assistant Superintendent ♦ Cherie A. Wager, Assistant Superintendent ♦ Luke R. Wittum, Assistant Superintendent



GISD Staff

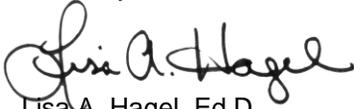
Page 2

January 28, 2016

Thank you to each and every one of you for the great efforts you take to help the children in our county. It is especially appreciated as we assist others during a very trying time to our wonderful hometown areas.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa A. Hagel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Lisa A. Hagel, Ed.D.
Superintendent