

**QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**The City University of New York**  
**Faculty Executive Committee**

**Memorandum**

From: QCC Faculty Executive Committee, Philip A. Pecorino, Chairperson  
To: Academic Senate Steering Committee  
Subject: Proposal for Consideration of the Academic Senate- College Policy on Water Safety Resolution

Please place the proposal below on the agenda of the May meeting of the Academic Senate

**Water Safety Resolution**

Whereas, most would agree that human beings of all ages have a right to life and health, and to a safe work environment (OSHA and others) , that leads to a correlative duty of the City University of New York and Queensborough Community College to protect those who enter the spaces of the University and College from harm, and

Whereas, it is known from recent reports in the press that the drinking water in various facilities in the City of New York may contain elements harmful to human health, and

Whereas, the Department of Environmental Protection of the City of New York encourages and supports the testing of drinking water and

Whereas, the Administration of Queensborough Community College of the CUNY has not as yet scheduled any comprehensive sampling/testing of water fixtures on its campus,

Therefore be it resolved that, it shall be the policy of Queensborough Community College to conduct testing of all fixtures for drinking water, and

be it further resolved that, that the results be provided to the Academic Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues, and

be it further resolved that, a water statement, indicating whatever official statement the college can/should make regarding water quality, be posted on the Queensborough Community College website, and

be it further resolved that, any sites that testing indicates have problems be remedied and retested and reports made to the same committee.

**RATIONALE:**

There have been reports in the New York Press over the last year related to the quality of New York City drinking water in schools. (See below.) Members of our College community have brought their concerns over the quality of the drinking water on campus to the attention of the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) which in turn requested that the Academic Senate Committee on Environment, Quality of Life, and Disability Issues

have conversations with the Administration concerning the quality of the drinking water on campus. The FEC learned from that Senate Committee that there was no regular testing on campus and that the college only tested the W-Building that housed the early childhood center and that there has never been campus-wide testing and that the testing of the W-building was related to requirements established because there was the early childhood center on campus. Such testing was ended when the center was closed. Further, the FEC subsequently learned from the PSC Chapter Executive that the College might test water in the RFK building when there are children present for programs in the building starting this summer. The FEC has hoped for the College Administration to voluntarily take action to alleviate these concerns in the community. It is still a hope. However, in the absence of such action it is regrettable that there appears to be a route to achieving the desired outcome for the community by means of a proposal of a College Policy to be considered for adoption by the Academic Senate, the policy making agency of the College.

#### RECENT REPORTS in the NY PRESS:

Over 80 percent of city schools have high lead levels in water

<http://nypost.com/2017/04/28/over-80-percent-of-city-schools-have-high-lead-levels-in-water/>

Elevated levels of lead found in water at Bronx school | New York's ...

[pix11.com/2017/02/06/elevated-levels-of-lead-found-in-water-at-bronx-school/](http://pix11.com/2017/02/06/elevated-levels-of-lead-found-in-water-at-bronx-school/)

New York Changes How It Tests for Lead in Schools' Water, and Finds ...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/03/.../new-york-dept-education-lead-water.html>

Water at New York City Schools Will Be Retested for Lead - The New ...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/19/.../lead-water-testing-nyc-public-schools.html>

Lead Testing of School Drinking Water - New York State Department ...

[https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead\\_testing\\_of\\_school\\_drinking\\_water.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/lead_testing_of_school_drinking_water.htm)

NYC school's water has Flint-like lead levels | New York Post

[nypost.com/2017/02/02/nyc-schools-water-has-flint-like-lead-levels/](http://nypost.com/2017/02/02/nyc-schools-water-has-flint-like-lead-levels/)

Results released of lead testing in NY schools' drinking water

[news10.com/2017/01/.../results-released-of-lead-testing-in-ny-schools-drinking-water/](http://news10.com/2017/01/.../results-released-of-lead-testing-in-ny-schools-drinking-water/)

Governor Cuomo Signs Landmark Legislation to Test Drinking Water ...

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-landmark-legislation-test-...>

23 Districts Now Reporting High Lead in Water | WGRZ.com

[www.wgrz.com/news/23-districts-now-reporting-high-lead-in-water/340993794](http://www.wgrz.com/news/23-districts-now-reporting-high-lead-in-water/340993794)

New York City schools fail lead-in-water tests - World Socialist Web Site

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2016/12/29/nycs-d29.html>

After testing water for lead, follow-up steps are critical - New York State ...

[www.nyssba.org/news/.../after-testing-water-for-lead-follow-up-steps-are-critical/](http://www.nyssba.org/news/.../after-testing-water-for-lead-follow-up-steps-are-critical/)

Water at New York City Schools Will Be Retested for Lead

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/19/nyregion/lead-water-testing-nyc-public-schools.html>

Schools water to be tested under new state law | NYSUT.org

[www.nysut.org/news/2016/september/schools-water-to-be-tested-under-new-state-law](http://www.nysut.org/news/2016/september/schools-water-to-be-tested-under-new-state-law)

New York schools must test lead levels in water under law - NY Daily ...

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/new-york-schools-test-lead-levels-water-law-article-1.2780539>

New York Changes How It Tests for Lead in Schools' Water, and Finds More Metal  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/03/nyregion/new-york-dept-education-lead-water.html>

New York City schools fail lead-in-water tests - World Socialist Web Site  
<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2016/12/29/nycs-d29.html>

Here's What You Need to Know About Lead Water Testing in City Schools  
<https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20170214/upper-west-side/lead-water-testing-nyc-schools>