

BOISE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT LEAD REMEDIATION

STATE PROGRAM: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Boise Public School District

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$500,000



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Boise School District (BSD) tested drinking water sources from its schools built before 1986 and found that 20 schools required remediation for lead exposure. Resolving this concern and removing the sources of lead contamination required a fast response, but in Idaho, a bond passage is required for any municipal long-term debt that significantly extends the period necessary to begin capital projects. The Idaho SRF provided BSD with a 100% principal forgiveness loan of \$500,000, and with the entire loan forgiven, time-consuming loan underwriting was not required, and BSD quickly remediated the lead exposure. The source of lead contamination at these schools originated from old lead faucets, so the school initially flushed water lines daily to reduce lead exposure. Idaho's SRF program issued a proactive categorical exclusion for the entire class of lead remediation activities since old fixtures were replaced with like-kind new lead-free parts. The project is eligible for CWSRF financing because it provides a water efficiency benefit to the public water system. This project replaced 1,597 faucets with new water efficient fixtures which eliminated the required daily flushing and is estimated to save over 1.7 million gallons of water a year. This creative project reduced lead exposure in drinking water for students while conserving water which provided many benefits for BSD.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/documents/pisces_2019_compendium.pdf.