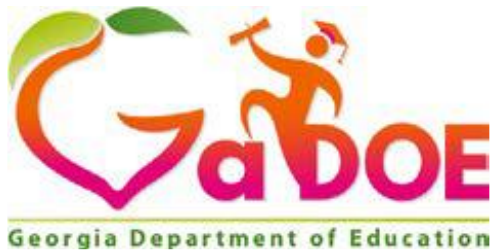


**Georgia Department of Education  
Facilities Services & Pupil Transportation Division**

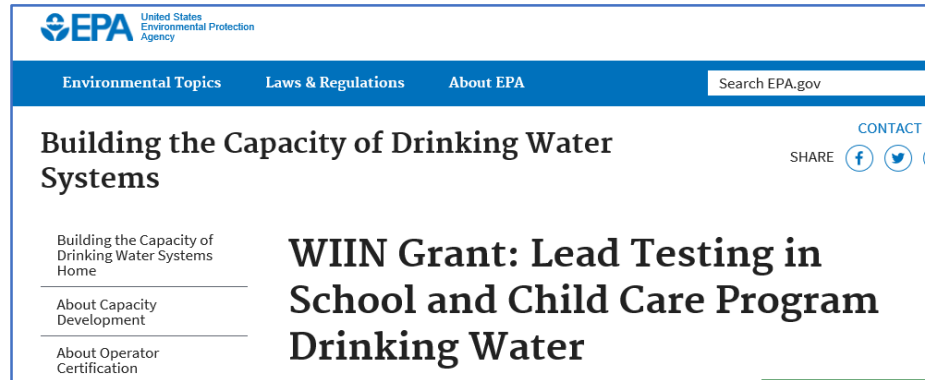
**WIIN Act Grant: Clean Water for  
Georgia Kids program**



**House Study Committee**

**October 6, 2021**

# Federal Grant Funding to Support Voluntary Testing



- The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act or Water (WIIN) Act of 2016 authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a voluntary grant program to assist local and tribal educational agencies and childcare programs in testing for lead in drinking water at schools and childcare programs.
- GaDOE was charged with writing the grant and oversight of the program
- Contracted with Research Triangle Institute (RTI) to conduct the testing program
- The grant covers associated testing costs only
- The grant does not cover any risk mitigation costs, once identified
- RTI will provide recommendations to school systems and daycare centers for risk mitigation
- This grant is voluntary

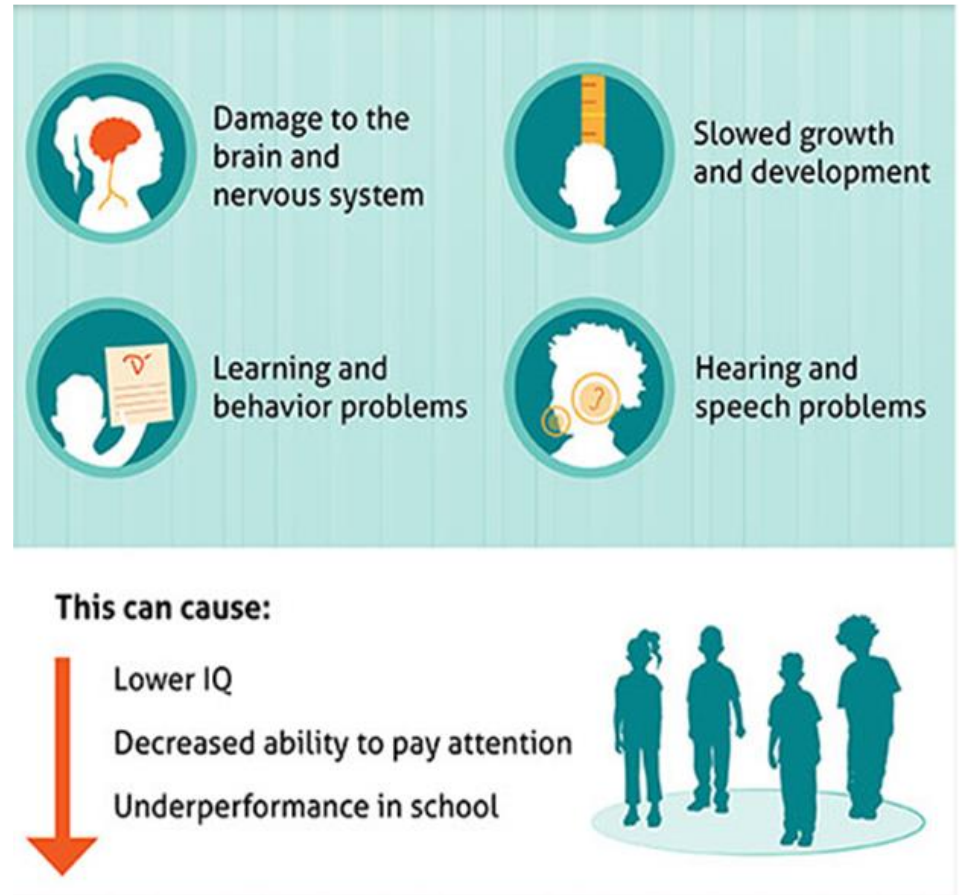
# Who is RTI?



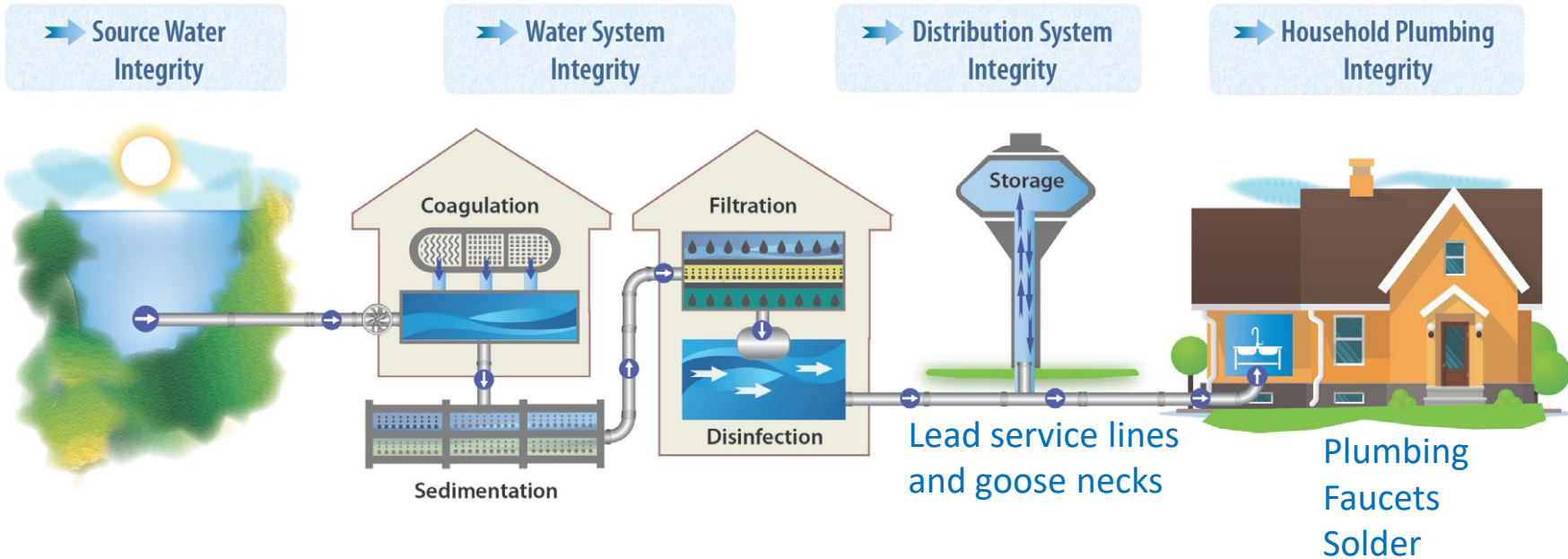
- RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Their vision is to address the world's most critical problems with science-based solutions in pursuit of a better future.
- GaDOE selected RTI to provide the training, testing, and follow up recommendations for the lead testing.
- The Georgia Program of lead testing is an expansion of RTI's award winning program in North Carolina.

# Why is this important?

- Lead exposure can potentially cause cognitive and behavioral deficits in children
- Young children are the most vulnerable population susceptible to the effects of lead



# Where does lead come from?



- Usually not found in water source

Usually not found at the water system

Found in Distribution Piping and Household Plumbing

# What does the funding cover?

- Voluntary Testing costs and support
- Recommendations for risk mitigation
- Does NOT cover risk mitigation costs



**Clean Water for Georgia Kids**

# How will this be accomplished

- School systems will attend a pre-enrollment webinar which will show them:
  - How to enroll
  - How to sample your water
  - How to ship the sample back
  - Live Q&A session
- School systems will then enroll online
- Test kits will be mailed out with instructions
- Samples will be taken and returned

# Results Paired with Risk Mitigation Recommendations & Communication Materials



## Water Filters Certified to Remove Lead in Drinking Water and Cooking Water

CLEAN WATER FOR CAROLINA KIDS



This informational brochure was developed for RTI International's Clean Water for Carolina Kids (CWCK) program. If you have lead in your tap water, installing a point-of-use water filter can remove or reduce the lead in your drinking water. Point-of-use water filters treat water from one tap—usually a kitchen sink—after the water has passed through all pipes and fixtures that could increase the water's lead content. We recommend using water filters at taps designated for cooking or drinking.

<https://www.rti.org/brochures/clean-water-carolina-kids-information-lead-drinking-water>

<https://www.rti.org/brochures/water-filters-certified-remove-lead-drinking-water-and-cooking-water-clean-water-carolina>



# How much funding is available in Georgia?

- FY19: \$1,102,000
  - We plan to test 800 schools with this initial funding
- FY20: \$842,000
  - Notice of award has been received and is processing
  - Funding opens up to include childcare facilities
- FY21: \$858,000
  - Notice of award has been received and is processing
  - Funding opens up to include childcare facilities

# Who can enroll?

- All schools are encouraged to enroll if they are open, under reduced operations, or temporarily closed
- Additional outreach and recruitment will be conducted for schools that fall into the following categories:
  - Elementary schools with Pre-K, then elementary, then middle, then high
  - Schools with > 50% free lunch
  - Schools with higher diversity (50% non-white)
  - Schools in older buildings
- We do not want to turn away interested schools, but plan to conduct additional outreach/recruitment for prioritized schools

# What do my results mean?



Lead concentration in drinking water (parts per billion or ppb)

It is often EASY and LOW-COST to get lead out of your water.



## Understanding the results of your water tests

In this video, Jenny will help you understand your test results. If the lab finds lead in your water, you have options about what to do. Jenny will walk you through those options.

[www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids/howto](http://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids/howto)

# No Cost Clean Water Habits Include:

- **Designate taps** for drinking and cooking with proper signage.
- **Use only cold water** for drinking or cooking. Don't start using hot water, even if you're going to boil it.



# Low-Cost Risk Mitigation Includes:

- **Fixing a clog**
- **Flushing water** regularly
- **Faucet fixture** replacement to stainless steel
- **Install and maintain a water filter** that is *certified to remove lead*
- Install a bottle filling water fountain with built-in filter
- *In limited cases, more costly mitigation such as lead service line replacement may be needed*



[www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/howto](http://www.cleanwaterforcarolinakids.org/howto)

<https://www.rti.org/brochures/water-filters-certified-remove-lead-drinking-water-and-cooking-water-clean-water-carolina>

# Questions?

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