



## Expanded Assistance Program for Lead in Drinking Water For Schools and Early Education and Childcare Facilities

### Revere Seminar Report

November 2023

UMass  
Amherst

The MassDEP Drinking Water Program Lead in Schools and Childcare Facilities Drinking Water-Expanded Assistance Program (EAP) hosted a two-hour seminar on November 17, 2023. There were seventeen attendees at the session, which was tailored for Spanish-speaking childcare providers and held at the Women Encouraging Empowerment facility. The primary objectives of the seminar were to educate participants on the adverse effects of lead in drinking water on health and to highlight the advantages of signing up for EAP. In addition to providing training materials and light refreshments throughout the session, EAP also gave each participant a certificate certifying to their attendance. This certification may count towards the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)'s yearly requirement for childcare educators' training.



Picture 1: Jessica Sibirski explaining the adverse effects of lead in drinking water during the seminar.



Picture 2: Seminar attendees: Childcare educators, WEE and EAP staff.

This was the third Spanish-language seminar organized by EAP with the goal of reaching out to environmental justice communities; however, this time, we partnered with the nonprofit Women Encouraging Empowerment. [WEE's](#) mission is to educate, advocate, protect, and advance the rights of low-income immigrant and refugee women and their families through organizing, leadership development, and service delivery. WEE successfully achieved the engagement of a diverse minority group of educators, offering them a range of training courses encompassing health and administration-related information. This initiative aimed to provide a comprehensive and varied set of educational opportunities tailored to the unique needs and interests of educators from different minority backgrounds.



Figure 3: EAP<sup>1</sup> and WEE<sup>2</sup> staff, left to right: Alex Smith-Lin<sup>1</sup>, Jessica Sibirski<sup>1</sup>, Gufran Bulbul<sup>1</sup>, Xochitl Perez<sup>1</sup>, Ana Rodriguez<sup>2</sup>, Marian Berkowitz<sup>1</sup>, Olga Tacure<sup>2</sup> and Clauna Laurent<sup>2</sup>

**The MassDEP Drinking Water Program- EAP is grateful to Deneen Simpson, the Director of Environmental Justice, and her team for their efforts in locating the necessary funding to offer refreshments for the training. Environmental Justice (EJ) in Massachusetts is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment.**

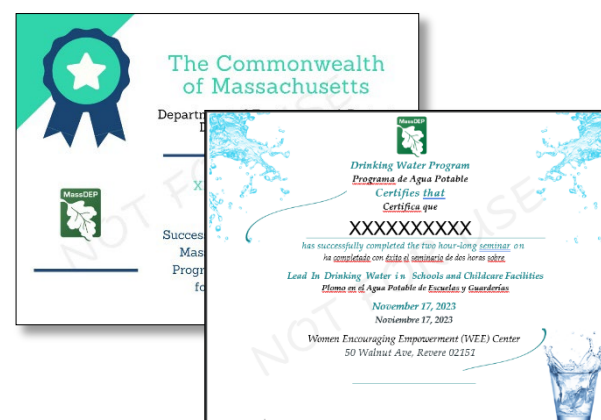
Since 1988, the [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#) (MassDEP) [Drinking Water Program](#) (DWP) has taken a proactive stance in addressing and eliminating lead in school drinking water. The MassDEP [Expanded Assistance Program](#) (EAP) for Lead in Schools and Early Education and Care Facilities Drinking Water is a voluntary program for public and private schools and licensed early education and childcare facilities (EECFs) that offers technical assistance with lead in drinking water testing, support for remediation actions, and outreach and education. Conducted in collaboration with the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, the program helps facilities develop a site-specific sampling plan, provides free laboratory analysis of samples taken at fixtures used for drinking and cooking, assists with the identification of fixtures with lead concentrations over the laboratory analytical testing limit of 1 part per billion (ppb or µg/L) and recommends possible remedial actions. Upon completion of the program, facilities are provided with a certificate of completion to display.



Picture 4: Registration Table - Volunteer providing assistance and distributing materials at the seminar.



Picture 5: EAP informational materials available in both Spanish and English.



Picture 6: Certificates of participation for the seminar and in the EAP program.

#### More information:

- EAP Story Map: <https://mass-eoeaa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=c8f635cf3a4b443998245f6045b4c013>
- EAP Frequently Asked Questions Document: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/assistance-program-questions-answers-for-schools-and-childcares/download>
- EAP Webpage: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/technical-assistance-for-lead-in-school-and-child-care-center-drinking-water>
- Lead and Copper in School Drinking Water Results: <https://eeonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#/search/leadandcopper>
- MassDEP Drinking Water Program: program.director-dwp@mass.gov Subject: Lead in Schools Drinking Water or 617-292-2770
- UMass-DEP LCCA-Program: [lccadep@umass.edu](mailto:lccadep@umass.edu) or 413-545-0840
- To apply online to the EAP program click [here](#).

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