BOSTON Public Schools
Focus on Children

UPDATE ON WATER POLICY

Kim Rice, Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Presentation to Boston School Committee
May 11, 2016

Since last we met…

- Completed testing of ALL schools that have active water fountains

Established BPS Water Website: **bostonpublicschools.org/water**

  - Fact sheets
  - Information Update(s)
  - Water & Lead Resource Links
  - All testing results/data

- The Water Committee held a meeting to incorporate the feedback into the BPS water policy

- BPS hosted two Family Information Sessions this week

Online vs. Offline Schools

ALL schools have clean potable drinking water

Tested with levels below the EPA standard (online); or

Bottle Water Coolers (offline)

Online Schools have active water fountains and use tap water for drinking water.

Offline Schools do NOT have active water fountains and use bottled water coolers for drinking water.

All schools, both online & offline, do a 2 minute cold water flush every morning.

Testing of ALL Schools Completed

Completed the testing for every fountain in all 38 schools that were online.

- Testing completed by Envirotrac
- Triple verified by Boston Water & Sewer and BPS Environmental Services

2 tests per fountain

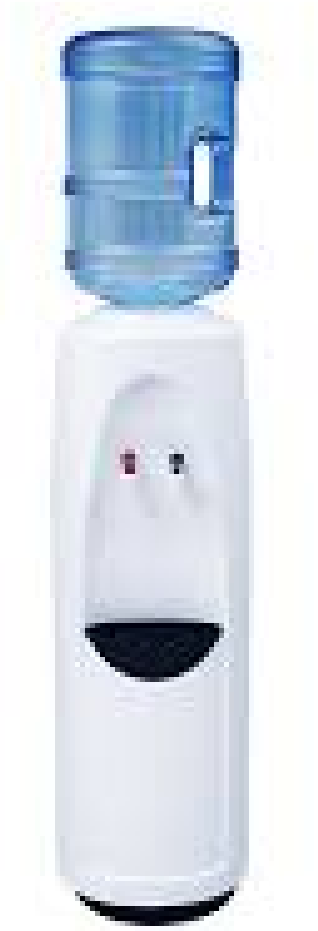
- AM – before any water movement
- After 30 second flush

All results are posted online

Test results at 4 schools (8 fountains) showed elevated levels and were immediately disabled.

All fountains in those buildings have been disabled.

4 schools taken Offline, now use bottled water

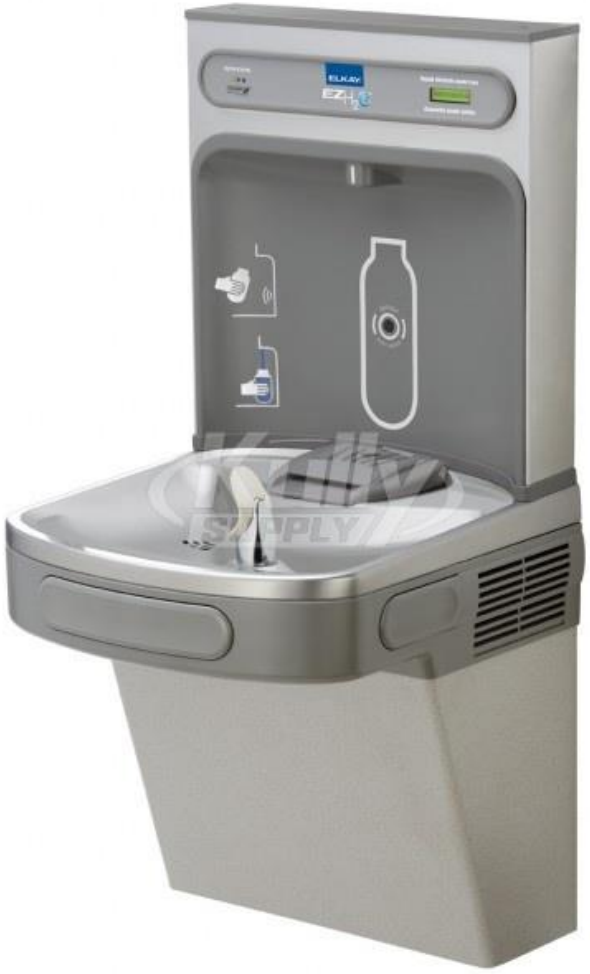


- Boston Latin Academy
- Hernadez K-8
- Kenny Elementary
- Murphy K-8

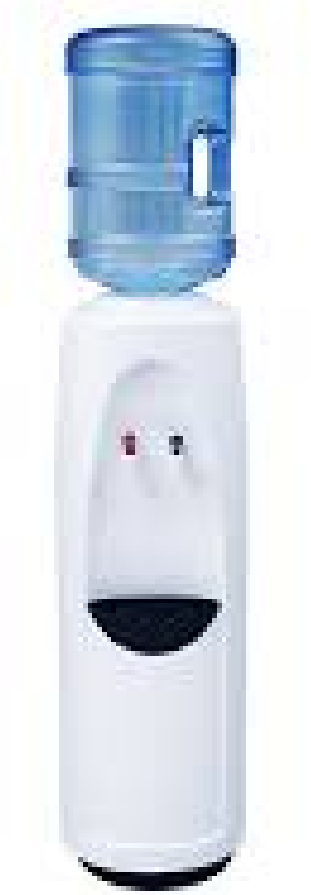
Pilot to bring Offline schools Online

- Six schools had been selected due to low ppb lead levels; Another Course to College, Boston Green Academy, Curley K-8, Lee K-8, Mather, Trotter K-8
- Incident occurred where a number of fountains were turned on prematurely in error.
- Investigation of incident, documentation, and timelines in each of the schools
- Communication Protocols built into BPS water policy implementation
- Community will be notified before fountains are turned on
- Working with individual school communities
- Contract with RW Sullivan to resolve implementation and develop plan

Hybrid Water Filling Stations



30 extra bottles delivered to every offline school



Action Steps for Improving Water Access at Your School: Schools with No Tap Water Access

Refer to your school's individual Water Access Report. The chart listing water access points will note which points may need actions for improvement, and identifies the steps on the flow chart below that may help.

Key Issues | **Suggested Action Steps**

CAFETERIAS & MEAL SERVICE AREAS

Do you have at least one water source in each meal service area in your school?

- **NO** → OPTION 1:
  1. Move a bottled water cooler into the cafeteria, in a space that is readily accessible for students. If you do not have a cooler, call Jackie Mainey at 635-9135 to order one.
  2. Ensure that the cooler is regularly stocked and cleaned by developing a cleaning and restocking plan. Make sure staff are clear on their roles and responsibilities.

  OPTION 2:
  1. Order at least one large insulated jug (e.g. a "Cambro") for serving water. This jug can be filled with bottled water from your regular bottled water service.
  2. Ensure the jug is regularly filled and cleaned. Work with cafeteria staff to develop a plan and make sure staff are clear on roles and responsibilities.
- **YES** → Great! Check to make sure that it is functional (see next step below)

Are the water sources in your cafeteria functioning?

- **NO** → Consider developing a restocking/cleaning plan with clearly assigned roles and responsibility to ensure the cooler is continuously stocked and cleaned.
- **YES** → Great! Consider implementing a cleaning schedule and schedule for checking on the functionality of the cooler periodically if you do not already have one.

REST OF SCHOOL BUILDING

Are any of the coolers in your building broken?

- **NO** → Great! Consider implementing a routine schedule to check the functionality of the coolers periodically.
- **YES** → Call Jackie Mainey at 635-9135 to order a replacement cooler.

Are any of the coolers in your building empty?

- **NO** → Great! Consider implementing a routine checking and restocking schedule.
- **YES** → Develop a plan to ensure that coolers are regularly stocked. Work with staff to assign restocking responsibilities and ensure staff are aware of their roles.

Are any of the coolers in your building dirty?

- **NO** → Great! Consider implementing a cleaning schedule if you do not already have one to keep things clean in the future.
- **YES** →
  1. Work with custodial staff to set up a cleaning schedule with clear roles.
  2. Consider signage and other messaging to remind students not to leave gum, trash, or food in fountain basins and/or dump non-water liquids down the drain.

CUPS AVAILABLE

Students can't access water from coolers, insulated jugs, or other non-fountain sources if no cups are available to them: not all students carry water bottles. Work with your cafeteria and custodial staff to ensure that cups are continuously made available and can be easily reached by students at these types of outlets.

Family Information Sessions

Facilitated by the Office of Family and Community Engagement

Interpretation services were available

Update on the water access in BPS by Kim Rice and Chief Engineer of Boston Water and Sewer Commission, John Sullivan

Educational update on the impact of lead by Dr. Sean Palfrey

2/3 of time during the meeting was dedicated to Q & A opportunities

Family Information Sessions, Guest Speaker

Dr. Sean Palfrey, Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University and Boston Medical Center and Director of the Lead Center.

Dr. Sean Palfrey

Dr. Palfrey has been a pediatrician, teacher and advocate for better child health policies in Massachusetts since 1974. He has worked and taught at Harvard, Tufts, UMass and Boston University Medical Schools, and is currently a Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health at BU and BMC. He has served as President of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and has spent much of his life working to improve access to health care for all children and to prevent lead poisoning, vaccine preventable diseases, and injuries and deaths from gun violence and other serious problems.

Dr. Palfrey has run lead poisoning prevention programs in Massachusetts in conjunction with the State Departments of Public Health and the Boston Public Health Commission for decades. During this time, lead poisonings have become much less severe, but exposure to lead in our communities from lead-containing paint, dust, water and other sources is still an issue of significant public health and educational concern, and requires our continued attention.

Next Steps

- Working with Boston Water and Sewer Commission
  - Additional water protocols and supports (ie adding filtration)
  - Testing protocols
- Establishing project timeline and corrective action plan with RW Sullivan
- Continuation of BPS investigation of water pilot
- Applying for State's Testing Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water
- Water Committee will update the BPS water policy on May 25th, 2016

Timeline

- 1988—Tap water deactivation in BPS schools after lead testing
- 1990s—MWRA implemented a corrosion control treatment that reduced the amount of lead leaching from plumbing lines. This resulted in some school buildings put back online.
- 1990-2000s—Boston Water and Sewer replace water mains in city buildings
- 2003—BPS cafeteria flushing system implemented
- 2009—BPS Water Committee established
- 2010—Harvard begins to collaborate on pilot projects to increase access to water in cafeteria and beyond.
- 2013 — Initial testing results presented to BPS Leadership; initial water access & policy requirements sent to all school leaders
- 2015-16 — Water testing concludes; water memo sent to all schools; 6 schools receive fountains and are brought back online