



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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Michigan's State Board of Education Statement on School Drinking Water Testing, Monitoring and Maintenance

The State Board of Education recognizes that children may be more susceptible to the adverse health effects of chemical, physical, and biological hazards than adults. Reduced immunity, immaturity of organs and functions, and rapid growth and development can make children more vulnerable to the toxic effects of environmental hazards than adults. Relative to their body weight, they breathe more air, consume more food and drink more water than adults. Their exposure to any contaminant in air, water, or food will therefore be higher than experienced by adults.

A wealth of research shows that even a small amount of lead in a child's body can cause serious health problems. Studies have demonstrated lead's compromising effects on the immune system and association with impairments in neurobehavioral factors such as a child's learning skills, hearing, and self-regulatory ability resulting in delinquent behavior.

During critical developmental stages, children spend much of their day within school environments. The current action limit for lead in drinking water of 15 ppb is a regulatory measure, not a public health one. Research shows that there is no 100 percent "safe" level of lead in drinking water for school children.

Despite recent findings of school water contamination, the Michigan Department of Education has 4.1 million dollars in unused one-time use testing and equipment filtration funding for which schools have not applied.

The State Board of Education recommends that the Michigan Department of Education provide leadership and coordination for water safety. ALL Michigan Schools need guidance and support to best ensure drinking water/water system safety for ALL Michigan students while reducing unreasonable burden on school staff.

1. Explore how to support continued resources for a statewide school drinking water quality program once Michigan Department of Education funds are expended.
2. Develop water assessment and maintenance guidance that addresses a broad set of contaminants and includes:
 - a. Monitoring and maintenance protocols that are developed with input from a broad set of stakeholders,
 - b. Direction related to provisions for special populations, and
 - c. Guidance on flushing of pipes and filters as deemed necessary given the condition of the water system.

Be it further resolved that the State Board of Education recommends that the Michigan Department of Education provide leadership and coordination with appropriate agencies to advocate for reduction of the action level for lead in drinking water from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb.

Adopted September 12, 2017

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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