



## ZURN ELKAY WATER SOLUTIONS

### CASE STUDY

# MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Utilizing ESSER funds to deliver cleaner, safer filtered drinking water to Wisconsin's largest school district

### CHALLENGES

- Multiple brands, sizes and capacities in filter cartridges
- 156 locations spread over 100mi<sup>2</sup>
- Limited budget
- Narrow installation window
- 700:1 student-to-bottle-filler ratio

### BENEFITS

- Single large-capacity filter cartridge
- Strategic retrofit/installation schedule
- Utilized ESSER funds to offset costs and expedite installation
- 96:1 student-to-bottle-filler ratio



*"We've been able to maintain the infrastructure, the plumbing and everything that's already there at all of our schools. And with all of our drinking water sources filtered with Elkay, we're able to have just one filter model for the entire district, which helps with the maintenance and sustainability."*

#### Michelle Lenski

Manager - Design & Construction  
Milwaukee Public Schools

### OBJECTIVE

Voluntary testing of Milwaukee Public Schools' water fountains in 2016 showed unacceptable levels of lead, leading the district to install a patchwork of after-market external filtration systems. When they learned one of their existing replacement filter cartridge models would be discontinued in 2023, officials contacted Zurn Elkay to create a districtwide solution.

### SOLUTION

Working with the MPS team, Zurn Elkay evaluated the district's current state of 2,498 drinking fountains and bottle filling stations and drew up a strategy to replace, retrofit or convert each to Elkay filtration over the 13-week summer break. In addition, they plotted out the optimal placement for installation of an additional 709 bottle filling stations, purchased largely through available federal ESSER funds.

The project yielded critical improvements for both operations and health. Each of MPS's total 3,207 units uses the same Elkay 3,000-gallon filter cartridges, tested and certified to NSF/ANSI 42 and 53 to reduce lead and other harmful contaminants. Nearly 70,000 students, 8,600 staff and visiting community members have continuous access to cleaner, safer and healthier water at any and all of MPS's 156 school facilities.

### RESULTS



Single  
Supplier



Single SKU  
Replacement



Trusted  
Partner