

How to Use This Toolkit

Access to clean, filtered drinking water in schools is something every student deserves. If you've noticed an unfiltered water source at your school or simply want to advocate for safer, healthier hydration options, speaking up can make a real difference.

The resources in this guide are designed to make it easier to start the conversation. Whether you're emailing your principal, calling facilities staff, requesting time at a school board meeting, or sharing your perspective at a PTA meeting, these scripts provide simple language you can adapt to your own voice.

You don't need to be an expert to advocate for better drinking water in your community. A thoughtful message, a quick call, or a few minutes of public comment can help bring attention to an issue that impacts students, teachers, and families every day.

Use the following scripts as a starting point to help you take action with confidence.

1 Email Your Principal

Subject: Questions about school water safety

Hi [Principal Name],

I recently learned that not all water fountains or bottle filling stations have filters—even the newer ones. That means our kids could be drinking toxins and contaminants like lead and microplastics. I'm wondering if you could confirm if there are any unfiltered units in our school, because drinking things like lead impacts brain development and the ability to learn.

Thanks for supporting student health and safety.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

2 Email Your Principal

Subject: Request for Additional Filtered Water Stations

Hi [Principal Name],

As you know, we recently learned that some of our school's water stations are not filtering out contaminants like lead and microplastics. Drinking out of those unfiltered sources could be harmful to our kids, impacting brain development and learning. I'm hoping the school will prioritize keeping our kids safe and set up for success by exploring replacing those unfiltered sources with filtered units.

I know there are filtered drinking fountains and bottle fillers—and even retrofit kits for unfiltered units. Could we explore some of those options?

Thanks for continuing the conversation on water safety for our kids.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

School Board Meeting Request to Speak / Submit Proposal Email

Subject: Community question regarding school drinking water stations Email

Hello [School Board / Superintendent Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I'm a community member in the district. I'm reaching out to ask if there may be an opportunity to briefly speak during a public comment period or submit a short proposal regarding school drinking water stations.

Many schools have installed bottle filling stations to encourage hydration and reduce plastic waste. Recently I learned that some bottle filling stations include filtration while others do not, and the units can often look nearly identical.

I believe this is something many parents may not be aware of, and I'd like to share some educational information and ask whether the district has evaluated filtration across its drinking water stations.

Please let me know if there is an opportunity to share this during an upcoming meeting. Thank you for your time.

Best regards,
[Your Name]

School Board Script

“Hello, I’m a parent in the district. I’m here today to raise the question of water safety in our schools. I was surprised to learn that, in general, not all drinking fountains and bottle fillers are filtered. That means our kids could be drinking toxins and contaminants like lead and microplastics. I’m requesting that our schools look at their drinking water sources to make sure all of them are filtered. And if they’re not, I’m urging you to keep our kids safe by either retrofitting unfiltered units to add filters or replacing unfiltered units with filtered ones.

Again, I’m asking the district to prioritize funding for converting all bottle filling stations to filtered units. Our students deserve safe drinking water wherever they are.”

School Board Talking Points

- There are no federal regulations mandating schools to test their water for lead and other contaminants
- In 2023, 7,700 schools across the country VOLUNTARILY tested their water. 77% of them found lead.
- Lead can cause developmental delays, learning disabilities, behavioral issues, kidney problems and in extreme cases, cancer and death in kids.
- Kids bodies are made up of more water than adults. They need all that water because their organs are still growing.
- When there are contaminants in water, it disrupts their organ development, including their brains, affecting how their brains are wired and how they think.
- Kids spend most of their waking hours at school, which is where they’ll drink the most water. It’s important for that water to be safe and healthy.
- I’m asking for the school board to ensure ALL drinking sources in our school district are filtered, to remove possible lead and other dangerous toxins from the water.
- This can mean replacing unfiltered fountains and bottle fillers with filtered ones, OR retrofitting unfiltered water sources to add filters.
- I understand this would mean prioritizing funding to upgrade fountains and bottle fillers. But kids can’t learn if their brains aren’t healthy and developing properly. And that comes down (in part) to the quality of their water. Let’s ensure our kids have the ability to learn and succeed in life. That should be a priority for EVERYONE in the school district.

