

Dear School Board Members and Administration,

It has come to my attention that there is **lead in drinking water** across the country and could even be affecting our school. Many states have lead service lines and solder joints, and even old fixtures. If corroded, lead can creep into drinking water. Sediment can also enter water, as well as cysts from human and animal waste!

These contaminants can be harmful to our students, staff – anyone who consumes this water. Lead exposure in children is particularly concerning. It has been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities and more.*

Not to mention, if kids abstain from drinking water at all because it is contaminated, they could become dehydrated. Children need water to help blood circulate, maintain healthy weight and stay attentive.**

Do you want this on your hands? Do you want to risk students becoming ill from drinking contaminated water or from being dehydrated? And potentially miss school because of it? As adults, we need to give our children what they need to survive, and water is most essential.

But I've discovered a solution.

Have you heard of the ezH2O® filtered bottle filling station manufactured by Elkay? It's a drinking fountain/bottle filler found in schools, gyms and airports. Yes, I've seen other schools equipped with this filtered product! Elkay filters reduce lead, sediment and other contaminants, making the water safer to drink. It may even be more cost-effective than buying five-gallon jugs and single-use plastic bottles (and take up less space!).

I know that schools often have large projects planned that can be costly and take time, but this solution that could improve our water crisis is **available now**. We may even be able to purchase it using our district's ESSER funds, grants or fundraising.

I know the board encourages parent and community involvement – would you mind including this letter in the minutes of your next meeting? I would appreciate the board's support.

Thank you,

* "Basic Information About Lead in Drinking Water." EPA.

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

** Rethy, Janine. "Choose Water for Healthy Hydration." *Healthychildren.org*