

# Water Quality Update

Facilities Committee Update

March 11, 2026

Presentation By:  
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**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

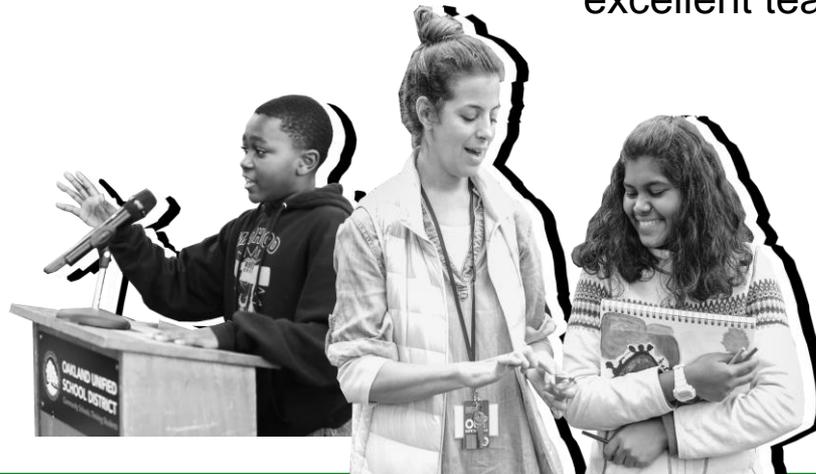
*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

## Our Vision

All OUSD students will find joy in their academic experience while graduating with the skills to ensure they are caring, competent, fully-informed, critical thinkers who are prepared for college, career, and community success.

## Our Mission

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) will build a Full Service Community District focused on high academic achievement while serving the whole child, eliminating inequity, and providing each child with excellent teachers, every day.



# Agenda



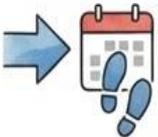
Facilities Master Plan  
Water Quality Section



Testing Dashboard Live



Cal Fire Filtered Water  
Stations Installation Plan



Next Steps



# Providing Safe, Clean Drinking Water across OUSD

## Strategy 1

Installation of Filtered Water Stations

## Strategy 2:

Comprehensive Diagnostic Testing

## Strategy 3

Replace Identified Fixtures

## Strategy 4

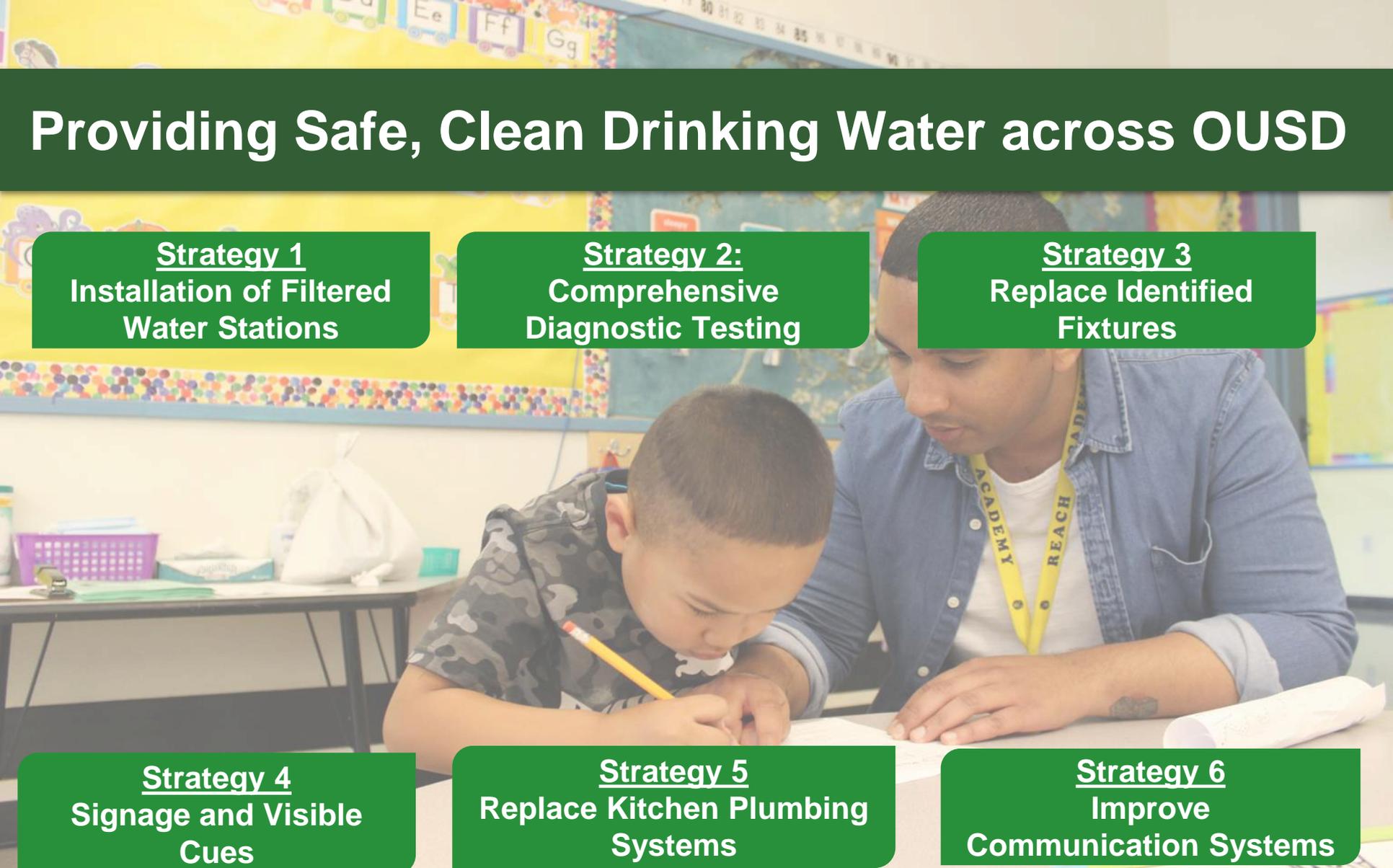
Signage and Visible Cues

## Strategy 5

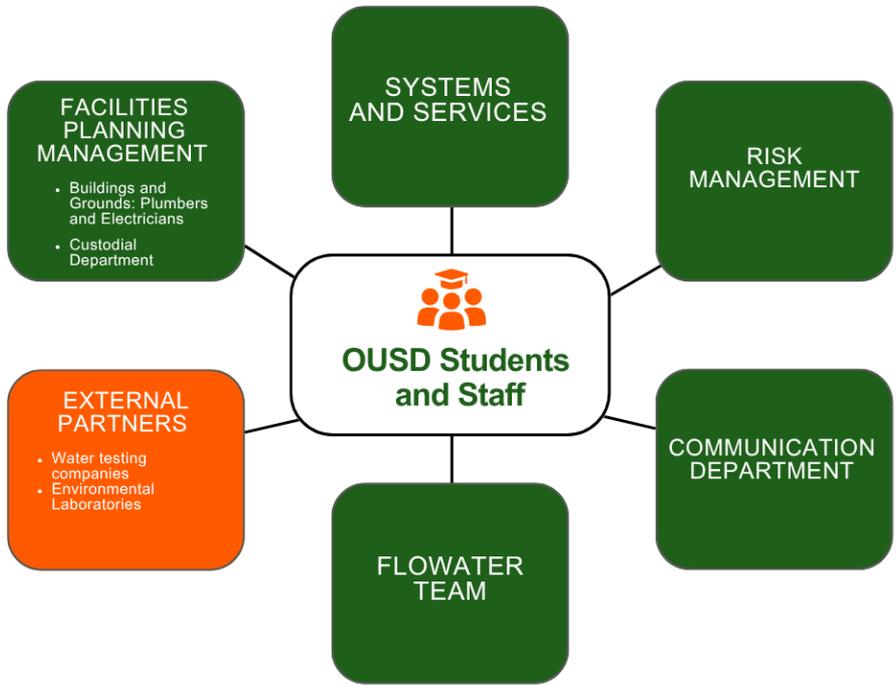
Replace Kitchen Plumbing Systems

## Strategy 6

Improve Communication Systems



# Effective Systems = Effective Teams



- ❖ The OUSD Board has dedicated **\$20.5 Million of Measure J and Y**, and one time funding to address this problem.
- ❖ This work brings together teams across OUSD to build healthier, more supportive learning environments at every school.

# OUSDs Commitment to High Standards

**Goal:** Provide safe, lead-free drinking water across all facilities.

**OUSD Standard:** < 5 ppb at consumable outlets (more protective than federal 15 ppb).

**Regulatory backdrop:** California **AB 746** required school lead sampling by **July 1, 2019**; EPA **3Ts** remains the federal recommended framework for Training, Testing, Taking Action. [Cal Water Board](#)

- OUSD has adopted this framework in the testing we have completed during Summer 2025.

**Summer 2025 comprehensive testing (completed):**

- 6,781 samples across 2,411 fixtures

**Peer/Local policies (context):**

- **SFUSD** Outlets remain closed until re-test < 5 ppb.. [San Francisco Public Schools](#) in 2023.
- **LAUSD** Outlets remain closed until re-test < 15 ppb, goal to reach 5 ppb. [LAUSD](#) in 2019.
- **SDUSD** Outlets remain closed until re-test < 5 ppb. [San Diego Unified](#) in 2017.
- **DJUSD** Outlets remain closed until < 15 ppb [Davis Joint Unified School District](#) in 2017.

# Staff Guidance

Scan QR code for updates!



## MAXIMIZING WATER QUALITY AT OUSD



OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Community Schools, Thriving Students

### Access to clean drinking water is vital for the health and well-being of every student and staff member.

OUSD has implemented a tiered approach to ensure all water on our campuses meets the District's high water quality standards. In addition, we are actively replacing water fixtures that test with elevated levels of lead. Any fixture that does not meet OUSD's strict standards is shut down immediately and remains out of service until the issue is fully addressed.

### OUR APPROACH

- Installation of Filtered Hydration Stations
- Comprehensive Diagnostic Testing
- Replace Identified Fixtures
- Signage and Visible Cues
- Replace Kitchen Plumbing Systems
- Improve Communication Systems

### BEST PRACTICES FOR ACCESSING SAFE DRINKING WATER AT YOUR SCHOOL

#### Encourage Use of Designated Filtered Hydration Stations

- Guide students to use FloWater, Elkay, and similar water dispensers that meet OUSD water quality standards.
- Please see OUSD Water Filtration Systems Dashboard to track your schools testing progress. [See here.](#)

#### Promote Use of Personal Water Bottles

- OUSD has delivered 60,000 reusable, aluminum water bottles to elementary schools for students to use.
- Encourage students to bring and refill personal bottles from designated safe water sources.
- Develop a routine for students to be able to access water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains that meet our water quality standards.

#### Encourage Proper Use of Designated Drinking Fountains

- Please guide students to ONLY use drinking fountains that are designated as safe with the placement of our OUSD water quality sticker.





Scan QR code for updates!

# Facilities Master Plan: Sustaining Safe Drinking Water Across OUSD

Analysis conducted in partnership with Perkins Eastman and SALUT as part of the Facilities Master Plan process.



## Current Achievements

- Protective 5 ppb lead standard (stricter than federal and state)
- Comprehensive district wide testing and remediation program
- Safe drinking water maintained across 81 campuses
- Only 4 fixtures remain offline pending remediation



## What It Takes to Maintain Safe Water

- **Maintenance** - Filter replacement, fixture repair, equipment upkeep
- **Testing** - Verification testing after repairs and routine monitoring
- **Program management** - Data tracking, reporting, and coordination across school sites



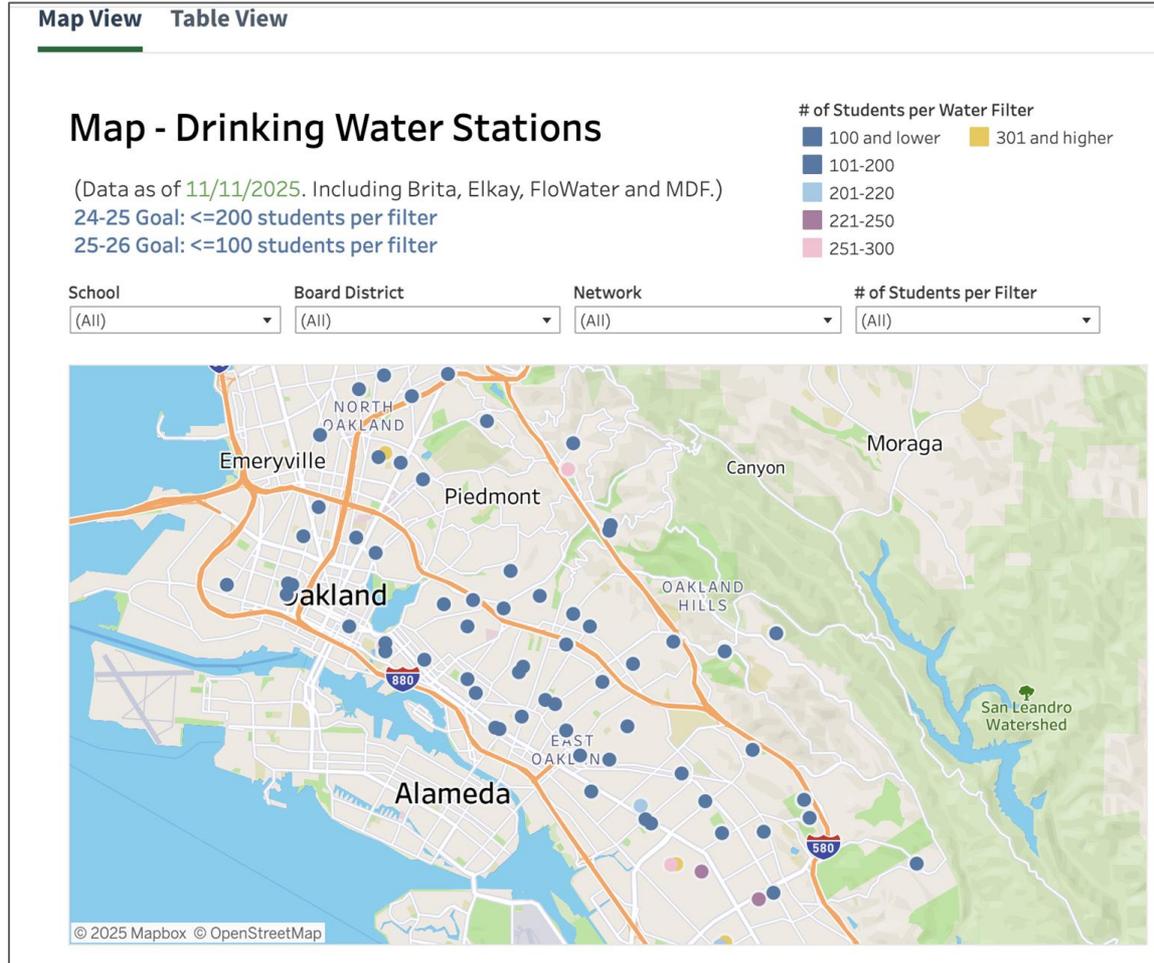
## Facilities Master Plan Direction

- Continue testing and filtration to protect students now
- Integrate water quality findings into major facilities and modernization projects
- Address aging plumbing infrastructure over time through capital improvements



# Dashboard Development

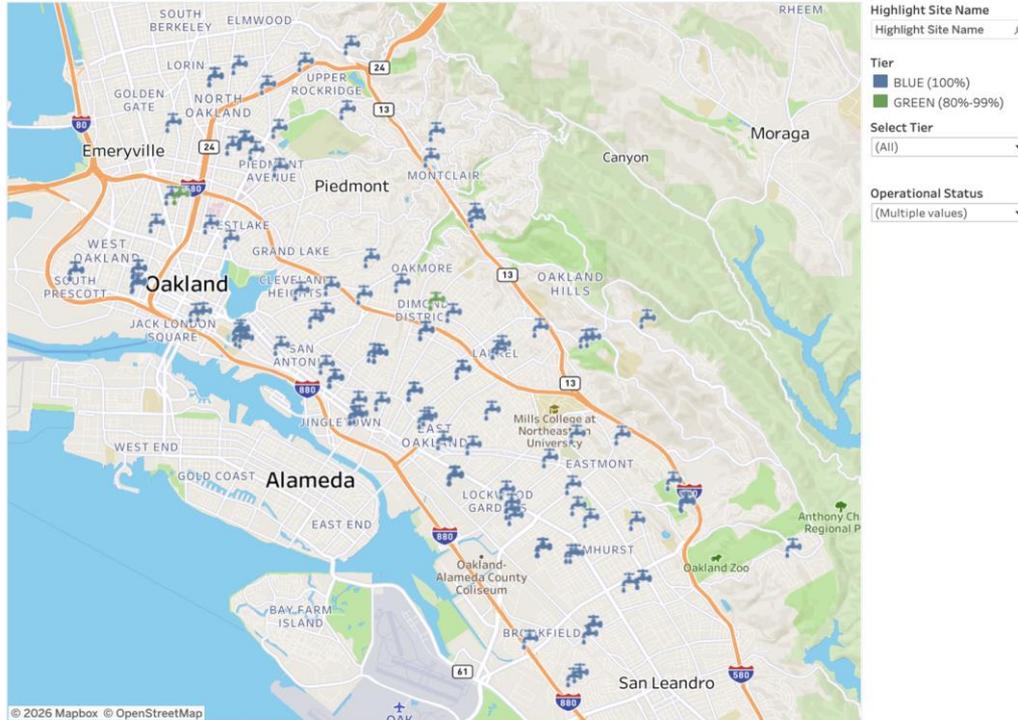
# Water Filtration Systems Dashboard (Active)



# Improving Transparency Through Water Quality Data

Map View List View Detailed by School

Map (click <https://tinyurl.com/mshud0th> to learn more about source of lead in drinking water.)



## Purpose

- Convert complex lab data into clear visual information
- Make testing results accessible to staff, families, and the community

## What It Shows

- Districtwide testing overview
- School-level results
- Fixture-level testing and remediation status

## Impact

- Improves data transparency and public access
- Allows anyone to easily interpret water testing results

**Cadence for updates:** every morning at 6:00 am

# Improving Transparency Through Water Quality Data

To improve transparency and accessibility, OUSD developed a public Water Quality Testing Dashboard that converts complex testing data into clear visuals for staff, families, and the community.



## Map View

Visual map of all OUSD sites with color-coded status showing current water testing conditions.



## List View

Districtwide list of schools showing fixtures tested, elevated, passed, and remaining repairs.



## Detailed by School

Filterable school-level data including testing dates, fixture results, and remediation status.



# Cal Fire Grant: Water Quality

# Cal Fire Grant: Water Quality

## Expanded to 16 OUSD Campuses

The Cal Fire Grant was expanded to support water quality and improvements at 16 school sites across the district.



## Participating Sites:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Lockwood STEAM Academy Elementary       |  East Oakland Pride Elementary                        |
|  Frick United Academy of Language Middle |  Brookfield Elementary                                |
|  Coliseum College Prep Academy           |  Piedmont Avenue Elementary                           |
|  Elmhurst United Middle                  |  Horace Mann Elementary                               |
|  LIFE Academy / UFSA                     |  West Oakland Middle Campus <i>(including Bunche)</i> |
|  Madison Park Academy Elementary         |  Dewey Academy High                                   |
|  Bella Vista Elementary                  |  Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary                    |
|  Fruitvale Elementary                    |  Manzanita Campus <i>(both schools)</i>               |

Sites were previously identified within the Cal Fire Planning Grant and can only be used for outdoor water installations,

# Cal Fire Grant: Water Quality

The Board approved the Cal Fire Grant in February. As part of the grant implementation, water infrastructure improvements will be completed at participating sites.

**Goal:** Improve access to **safe, modern drinking water infrastructure** and support long-term water quality standards across participating campuses.

## Implementation Plan:



### Increase Access to Filtered Water

Install additional filtered water stations to achieve a **100:1** student-to-station ratio



### Modernize Drinking Fixtures

Remove older white porcelain drinking fountains and replace them with stainless steel units. ADA compliant is preferred

# Introducing Additional OUSD Standard

OUSD is introducing **Elkay and Elkay Pro Filtration vandal-resistant drinking units** as an additional district standard to support **safe, durable drinking water infrastructure** across schools.

## Key Benefits

- **Vandal Resistant:** Designed for school environments to reduce damage and downtime.
- **Cost Effective:** Units can be maintained internally by OUSD staff without voiding warranty.
- **Long Lifespan:** Estimated 10+ year service life with routine filter replacement.
- **Rodent-Resistant Design:** Enclosure design helps prevent rodent entry.
- **Water Quality:** Testing shows no lead elevations above the OUSD standard.



# Next Steps

## Next Steps

1. January 1, 2026: Launch Dashboard to replace old system for updating the community.
2. January 2026: Receive recommendations from Facilities Master Plan in January to address water quality issues in OUSD.
3. February 2026: Incorporate positions needed to sustain program in the 2026-27 Budget Development to be approved by Board in June.
4. February 2026: Bring Policy recommendations to the February 2026 Facilities Committee Meeting.
5. March 2026: Bring Board Policy 3511.3 to the Board for revision.



# Next Steps



## March 2026

Procuring services for water testing in Summer 2026.



## April 2026

Recommendations for updating Board Policy 3511.3



## May 2026

Continue Installations, prepare for the summer testing.



Fiscal Analysis and Cost Overview



Start Cal Fire Installations of filtered water stations.



## Summer 2026

Summer Water Quality Testing.

# THANK YOU

## Any Questions?



Additionally, for more information, please reach out:

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# Appendix

# Testing Protocol

## Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines

- OUSD follows EPA guidelines for school water quality testing
- Developed district-wide protocol to ensure consistency and accuracy

## Sequential Testing Protocol (Drinking Fountains and Kitchens)

- Three samples collected per fountain:
  - 125 mL – Bubbler (tests outlet)
  - 125 mL – Angle Stop (tests behind fixture)
  - 250 mL – In-Wall Piping (tests upstream plumbing)
- Allows precise identification of lead source if levels are elevated

## Filtered Water Stations

- Single 250 mL sample collected per unit
- Assesses filter effectiveness and water quality at point of use

## Fixture Labeling & Tracking

- Unique nomenclature system created for **every** drinking fountain and filtered station
- Labels are matched to test results for targeted repairs
- Enables clear tracking of what's elevated, where it is, and how to fix it

Module 4: Developing a Sampling Plan  
Develop a Code System for Samples

Code each outlet using a system that will allow each unique outlet to be identified by location, type and other relevant characteristics. The text below provides examples for coding by fixture type and sample type. The following is an example template that can be used to designate unique samples in single-buildings.

**Floor-Room Number-Outlet Type-Sample Number**

The following is an example that uses the structure above and the example codes to the right. A first draw sample (F) was taken at a drinking water fountain (DW) on the 3rd floor (003) outside of room 312 (312) and is the 15th outlet counted (015). This sample would be coded as:

**003-312-DW-F-015**

If multiple buildings are being sampled, include the building number as well.

**Building Number-Floor-Room Number-Outlet Type-Sample Number**

Thus, if that same drinking water fountain was located in building 1 (01), it would be coded as:

**01-003-312-DW-F-015**

Important Note: when taking sequential samples, be sure to add a number to the sample to indicate the order the samples were taken in.

- 155= First sequential sample
- 255= Second sequential sample

For example, the first 125-mL sequential sample taken at that same drinking water fountain, would be coded as:

**003-312-DW-155-015**

The coding should be identified on a site map, accompanied by a narrative that describes the observable conditions of each sampling location. It is also important to document any special conditions for the sampling, such as whether it was conducted after a remedy was implemented (e.g., after fixture/plumbing replacement, after POU filter installation), during a flushing evaluation (e.g., XX hours after morning flushing), or after aerator or inlet strainer cleaning so that results can be interpreted in the future.

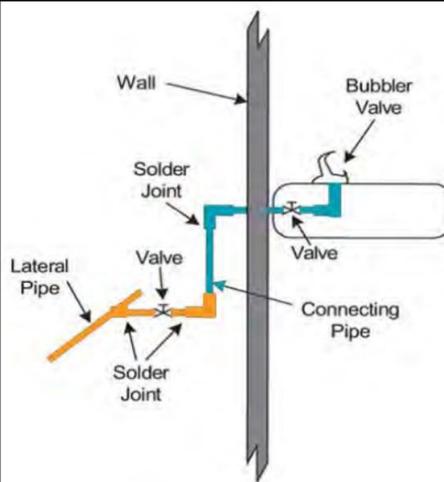
Coding examples can include:

- DW= drinking water fountain
- WC= water cooler (chiller unit)
- CF= classroom faucet
- KF= kitchen faucet
- BF= bathroom faucet
- NS= nurse's office sink
- SC= service connector

As well as the type of sample taken:

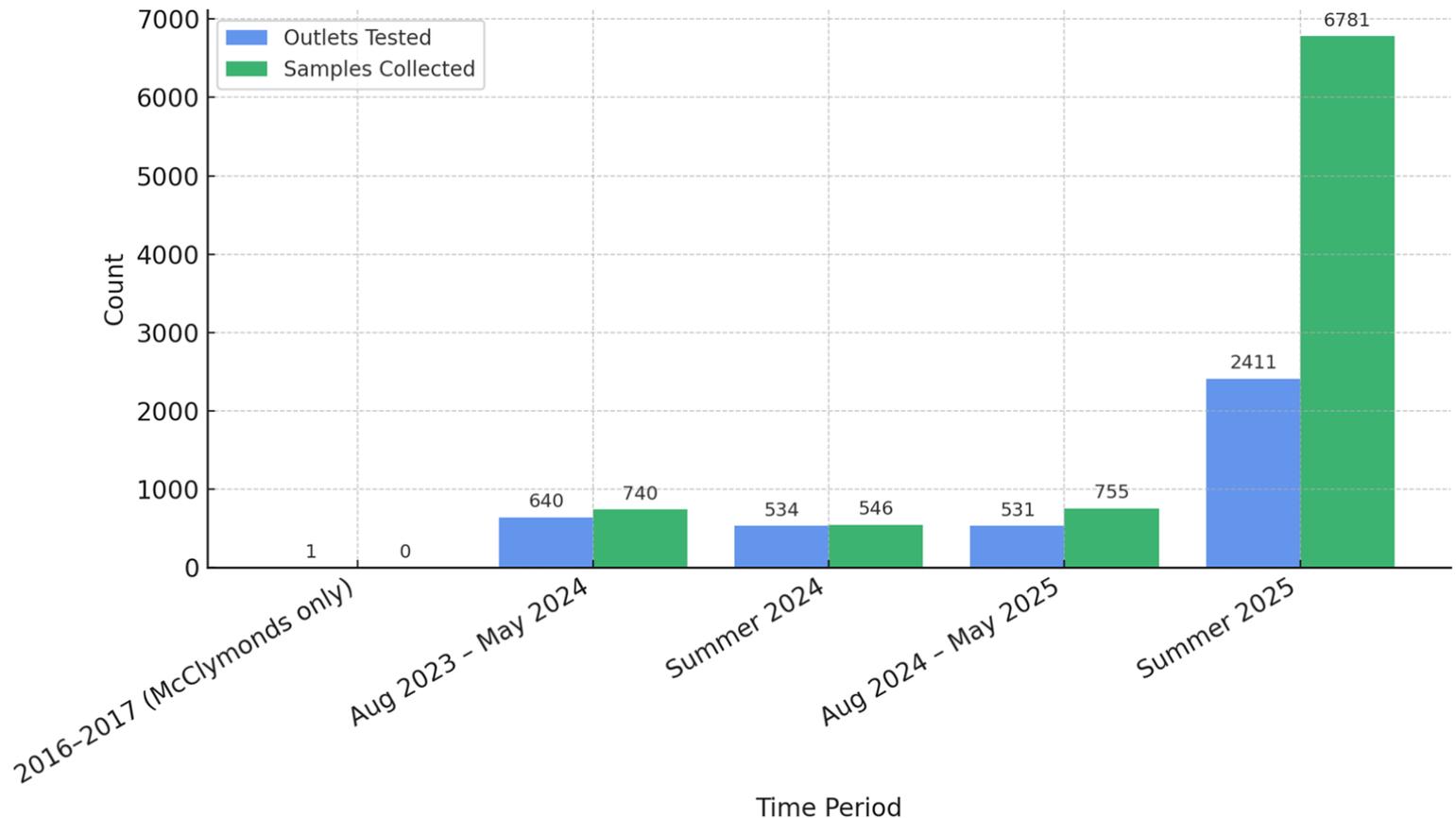
- F= primary or first draw sample
- F= follow-up flush sample
- SS= sequential sample

Office of Water (4606M)  
EPA 815-F-18-021  
October 2018



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2021). *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities: Revised Technical Guidance*. Retrieved from [EPA Guidelines](#), pp. 62

# Testing Data for Recent Testing Windows



Water Quality Outlet Testing and Sample Collection