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Introduction Date	03-19-2026
Enactment Number	
Enactment Date	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools, Thriving Students

Board Cover Memorandum

To	Facilities Committee
From	Denise Saddler, Ed. D., Interim Superintendent Preston Thomas, Chief Systems & Services Officer Pranita Ranbhise, Executive Director, Facilities Planning & Management
Meeting Date	March 19, 2026
Subject	Water Quality Program Update – Facilities Master Plan Integration, Public Dashboard Launch, and Cal Fire Infrastructure Improvements

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Ask of the Committee

This item provides an informational update and discussion on the District's ongoing water quality efforts. No action is requested at this time.

Background

Ensuring safe, clean drinking water in schools remains a priority for the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). In response to concerns about lead in drinking water systems, the District has implemented ongoing testing, filtration, fixture replacement, and infrastructure improvements across school campuses. As this work continues, staff are advancing several initiatives to strengthen water quality management and transparency. This update provides the Facilities Committee with an overview of how water quality considerations are being incorporated into the District's Facilities Master Plan, how recently awarded Cal Fire grant funding will support improvements to drinking water infrastructure, the launch of a new public water quality testing dashboard, and the next steps in the District's continued efforts to maintain safe drinking water across OUSD schools.

Discussion

Staff will present an update on several ongoing initiatives supporting the District's water quality program. The presentation will highlight how water quality considerations are being incorporated into the Facilities Master Plan, outline how Cal Fire grant funding will support improvements to drinking water infrastructure at selected school sites, introduce the newly developed public water quality testing dashboard designed to improve transparency and accessibility of testing data, and provide an overview of upcoming program activities, including infrastructure improvements and future testing efforts across OUSD campuses.

Key discussion points include:

- **Facilities Master Plan – Water Quality:** Integration of water quality needs into long-term facilities planning and infrastructure improvements.
- **Water Quality Dashboard:** Launch of a public dashboard providing transparent access to districtwide water testing results.
- **Cal Fire Grant:** Use of grant funding to install additional filtered water stations and improve drinking water infrastructure at selected campuses.
- **Next Steps:** Upcoming installations, procurement for summer testing, and continued monitoring of water quality across OUSD sites.

Fiscal Impact Bond Measures J and Y; Kitchen Infrastructure, and Training Funds.

Attachment(s) Presentation: Progress Updates - Water Quality Update

Water Quality Update

Facilities Committee Update

March 11, 2026

Presentation By:
Preston Thomas, OUSD Chief of Systems & Services
Nilufar Abdul, Assistant Manager of Systems & Services

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- Facilities Master Plan
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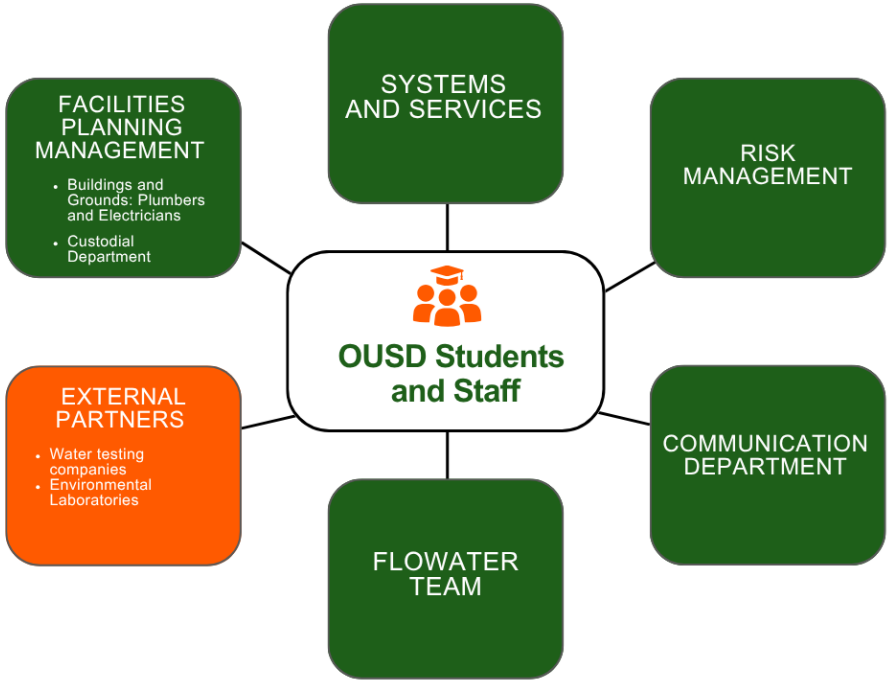
Effective Systems = Effective Teams



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

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

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Staff Guidance

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- Guide students to use FloWater, Elkay, and similar water dispensers that meet OUSD water quality standards.
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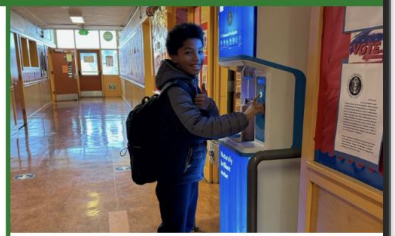

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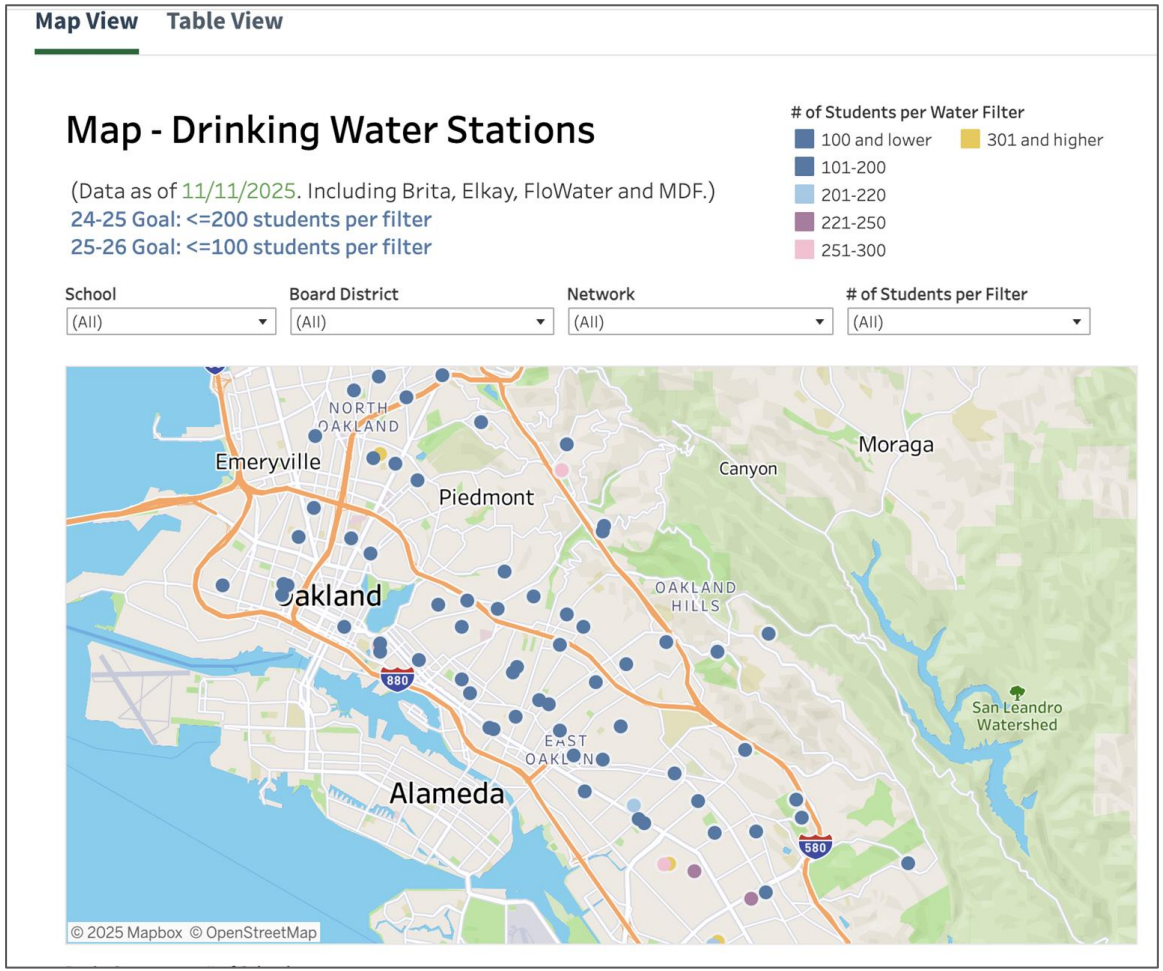

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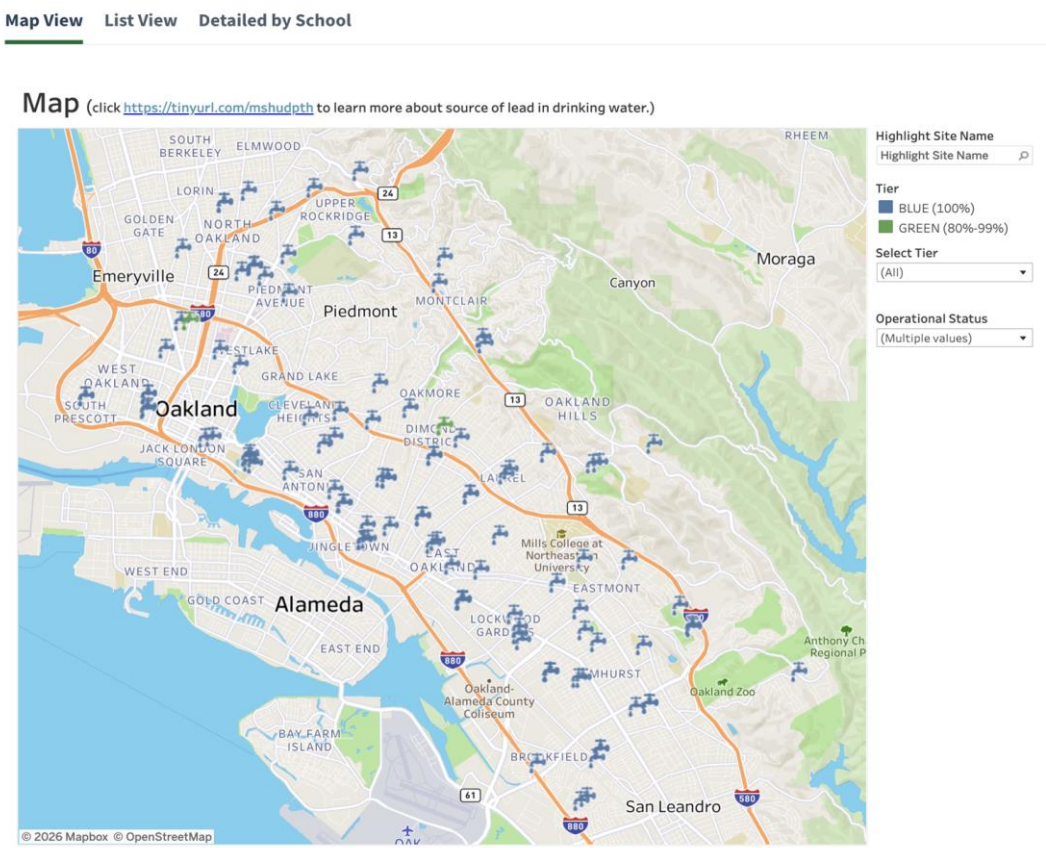

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THANK YOU

Any Questions?

Additionally, for more information, please reach out:

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Appendix

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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:
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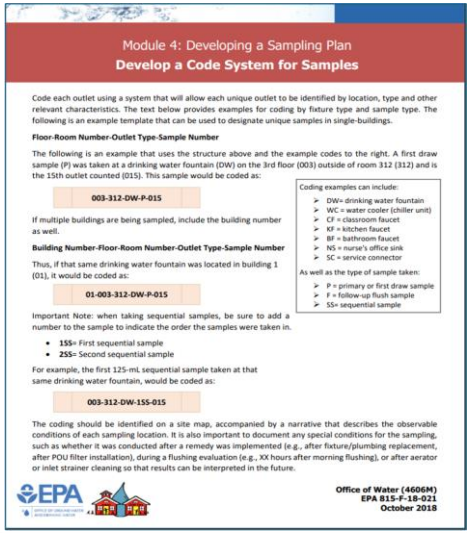

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003-312-DW-P-015

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-P-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.

- **1SS**= First sequential sample
- **2SS**= 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-1SS-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
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As well as the type of sample taken:

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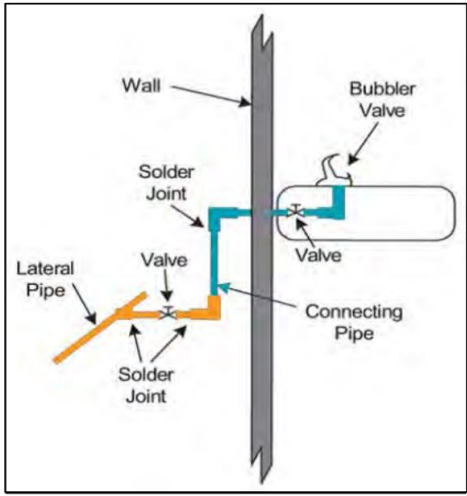
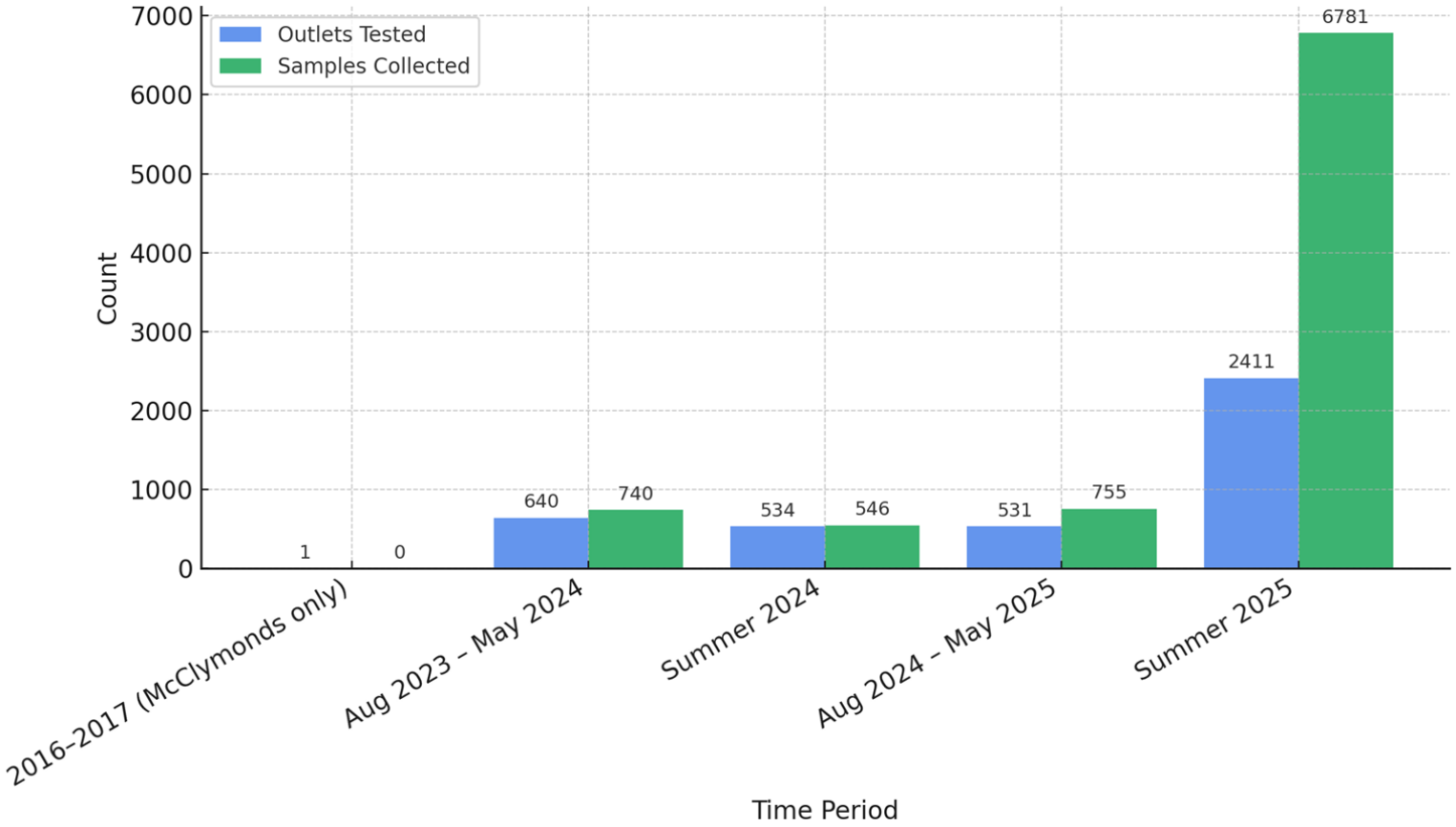
EPA

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

Water Quality Update

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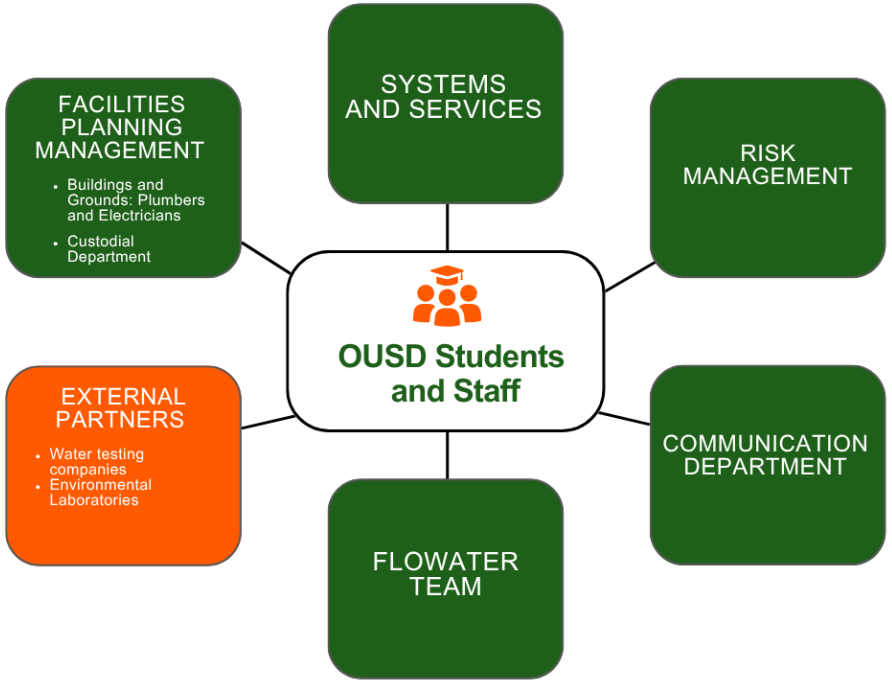

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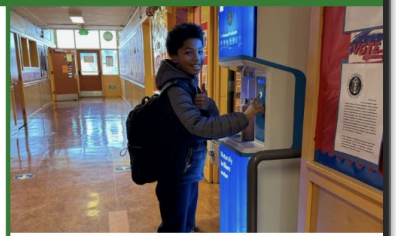

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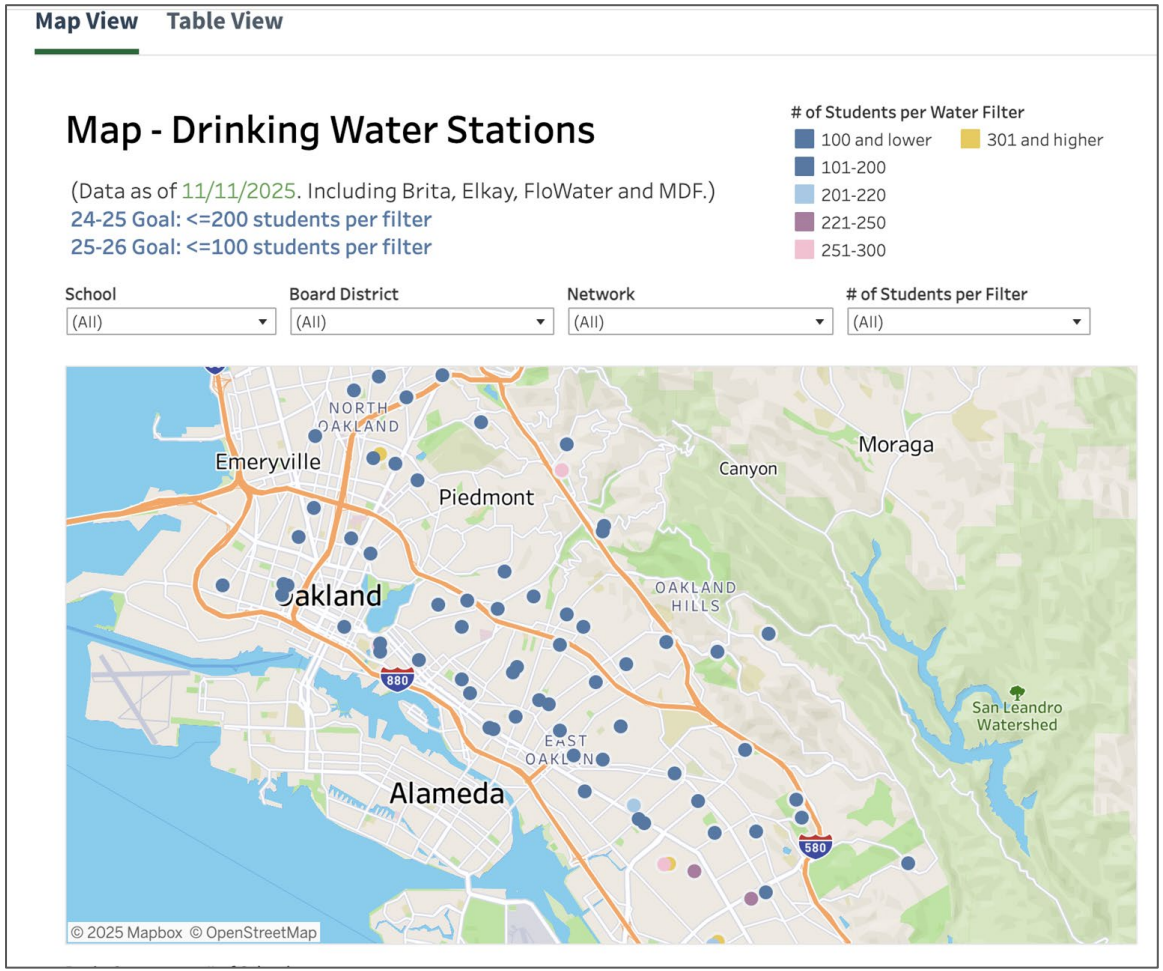

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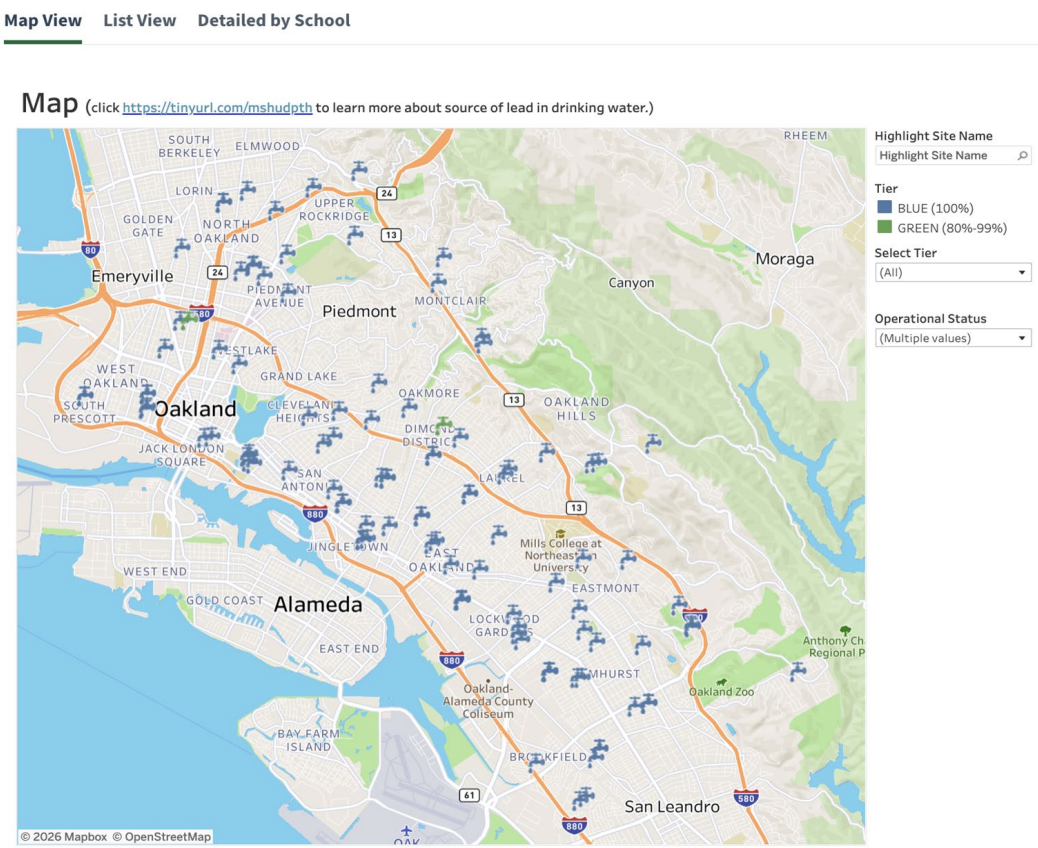

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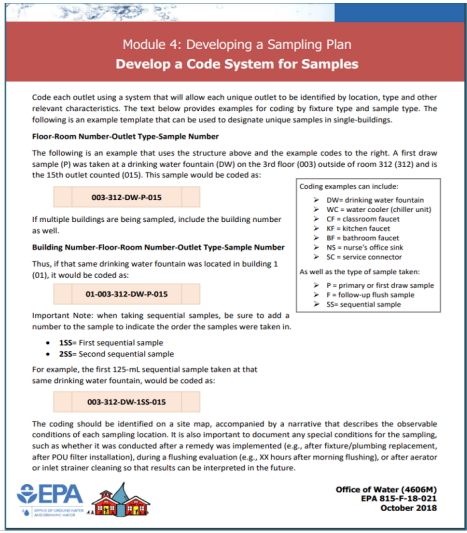

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If multiple buildings are being sampled, include the building number as well.

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-P-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.

- **1SS**= First sequential sample
- **2SS**= Second sequential sample

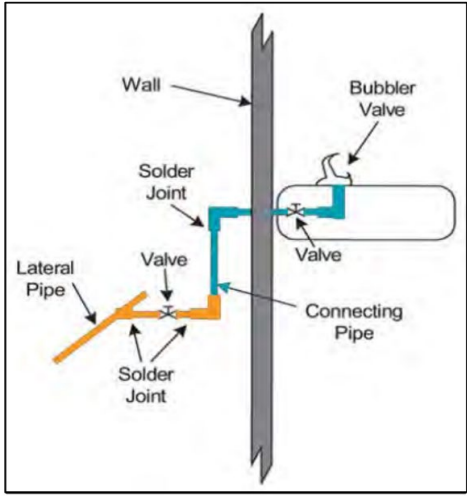
For example, the first 125-mL sequential sample taken at that same drinking water fountain, would be coded as:

003-312-DW-1SS-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.

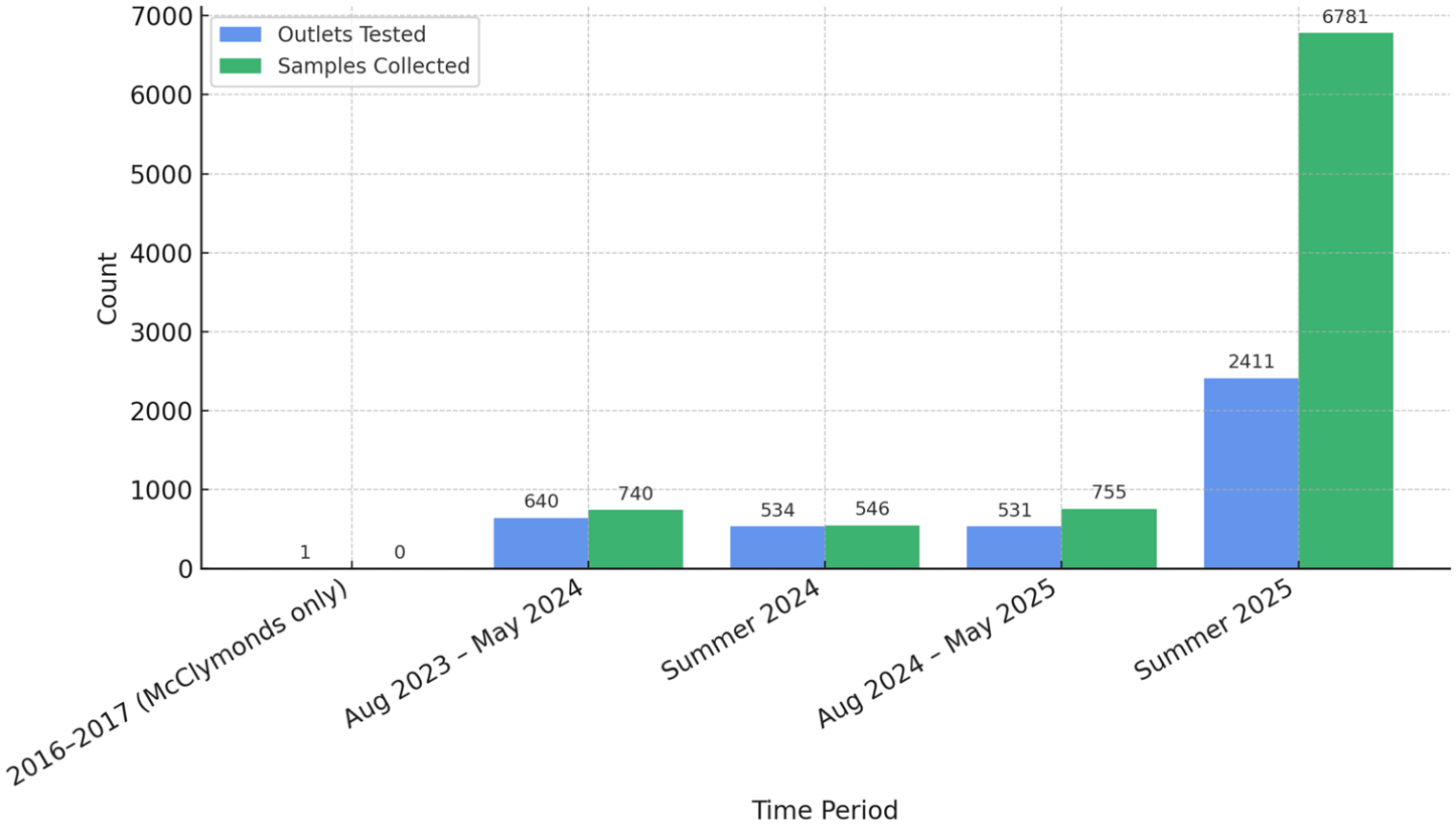
EPA

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