

Equity Impact Statement

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<p>Title: BPS Drinking Water Access Policy- Request to Update</p>	<p>Date: July 17, 2019</p>
<p>Presentation Overview/Action Proposed:</p>	<p>In June 2016, the BPS School Committee approved the BPS Water Policy, https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/Page/6092. Facilities Management is now requesting an update to the BPS Drinking Water Access Policy to reflect new federal and state drinking water regulations.</p>
<p>Educational and Racial Equity Implications:</p>	<p>The availability of free, safe drinking water is integral to the district’s responsibility to meet all students’ and employees’ basic needs and support healthy habits. Under BPS policy and state law, all students must have access to water throughout the school day at no cost. In addition, federal law requires that water be available at no cost during meal times wherever meals are served.</p> <p>BPS testing and water quality data is publicly available at bostonpublicschools.org/water, and in annual notices sent to families in multiple languages. Any new work related to drinking water infrastructure is in compliance with state regulations (available at http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/pl/regulations/rules-and-regs/248-cmr-1000.html#10.02) and the Americans with Disabilities Act.</p> <p>The evaluation process for adding water fountain service and the use of tap water as the primary source of drinking water (turning schools “online”) includes selecting schools from across all Boston neighborhoods (in part to achieve racial equity), schools that serve high needs students, schools with a variety of grade configurations, and an assessment of existing drinking water infrastructure, current and past drinking water test results, and anticipated costs. The online/offline status of all schools can be found at https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/Page/6052.</p>



Policy Implications:	In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency’s revised guidance, and the subsequent recommendations from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, BPS is committed to annually testing all units for drinking water and food preparation, deactivating units with test results above or equal to 15 ppb for lead and/or 1300 ppb for copper, and taking action on units with lead levels above 1 ppb to reduce those levels to the lowest possible concentrations. Please see proposed policy draft for full details.
Budget Impact:	N/A
Implications of Yes Vote:	The BPS Drinking Water Access Policy will be in compliance with new federal and state drinking water regulations and taking action to reduce lead levels as low as possible.
Implications of No Vote:	The BPS Drinking Water Access Policy will not be in compliance with new federal and state drinking water regulations.

