



UPDATED BPS WATER POLICY

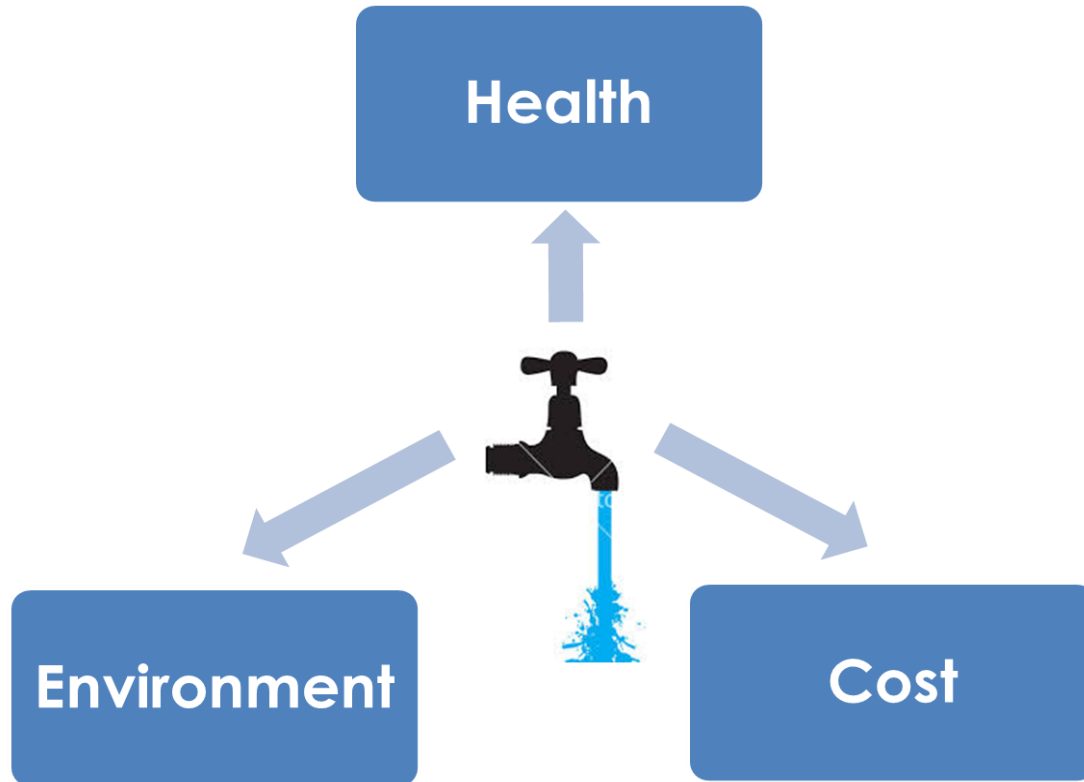
Kim Rice, Assistant Superintendent, Operations

Presentation to Boston School Committee
May 25, 2016

The Importance of Water

- An [HPRC study](#) found that more than half of all children and adolescents in the United States are not adequately hydrated at any given time.
- Inadequate hydration is associated with impaired cognitive and emotional function in children. [The study](#), published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, identified racial/ethnic and gender gaps in hydration status, with Black children at higher risk of inadequate hydration than White children and boys at higher risk than girls.

Ensure that all students have access to quality potable drinking water in accordance with state and federal law



Connecting with Families

Statement from the Boston Health Commission:

The Boston Public Health Commission does not recommend that BPS screen all children for lead poisoning who may have been exposed to lead in tap water in Boston public Schools based upon the most recent drinking water sampling results. BPHC recommends that parents consult with their child's medical provider to assess whether their child's individual risk warrants blood lead testing.

Hosting Family Information Sessions in each of the 10 impacted schools

ACC/Green Academy	June 1 5:00-6:30pm	Mather	June 1 st 6:00-7:30pm
Boston Latin Academy	June 2 nd 5:30-7:00pm	Murphy	June 6 th 6:30-8:00pm
Hernandez K-8	June 13 th 6:00-7:30pm	Trotter	June 7 th 5:00-6:30pm
Kenny	June 2 nd 5:30 – 7:00pm	Curley	June 2 nd 6:00-7:30pm
Lee K-8	June 9 th 5:00- 6:30pm		

How we achieved the updated policy language

Incorporated Feedback from School Committee, parents, and multiple city and state agencies

Held two meetings with Citywide Parent Council at the Hernandez for input and review

Met with the Water Committee

Worked with Boston Water & Sewer Commission, Boston Health Commission, Department of Environmental Protection

Highlights of the Water Policy

1. Testing all schools and increase our testing protocol to once a year
2. Integrated communication plan that provides access to data and resources in multiple languages
2. Hire an engineer to standardize testing, communications, and manage water implementation roll out
4. Create a district water access strategic plan in conjunction with the Facilities Master Plan
5. Educational and Training -- School level water access policies incorporated into wellness plan (ie promote water consumption, maintaining water coolers, cups, signage at water stations & establish healthy drinking water habits and implementation protocols)

Highlights of the Water Policy

Task	BPS Water Policy Recommendation
1. Frequency of testing	Once a year
2. Sources to be tested	All water sources being used for drinking, food preparation, or medical services.
3. Flushing Protocol	Daily. All schools will do a 2 minute cold water flush administered by a member of Food Services department.
4. Action Level	BPS lead action level will use Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for public water systems standard.

Single point for all water related information

www.bostonpublicschools.org/water