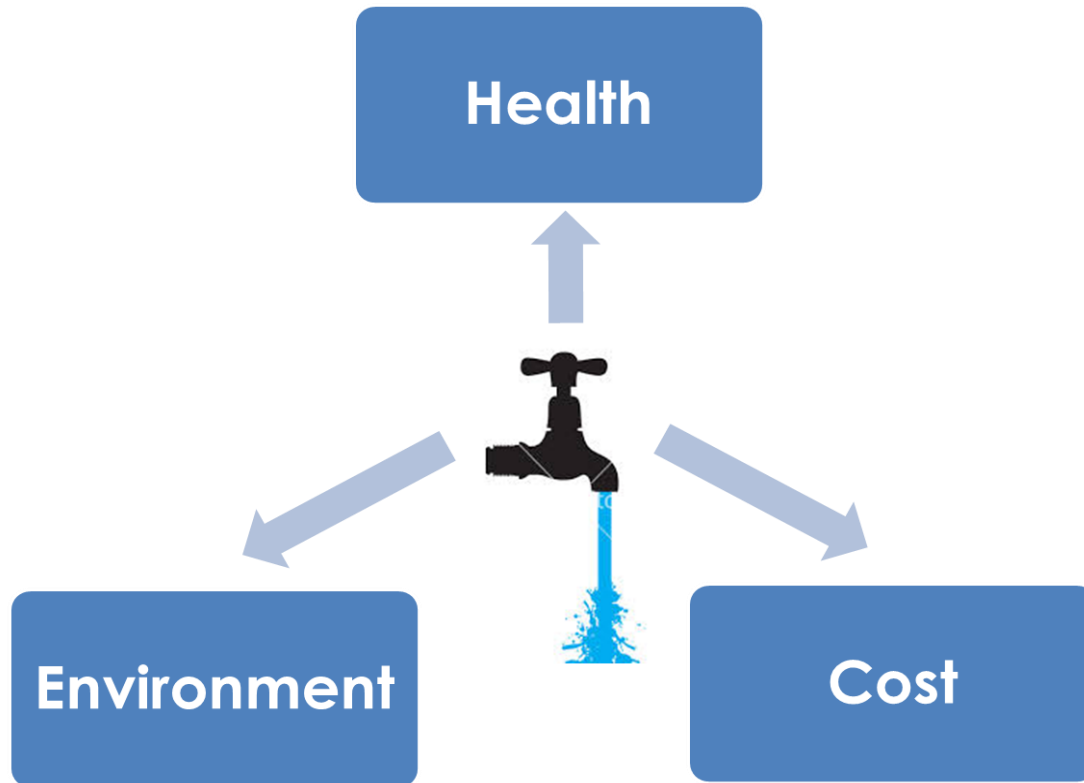


DRINKING WATER ACCESS IN BPS

Kim Rice, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Jill Carter, Executive Director of Health and Wellness
Khadijah Brown, Director of Facilities Management

Presentation to Boston School Committee
April 13, 2016

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



Benefits of Drinking Water

- Drinking water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages (e.g., sodas, sports drinks, sweetened teas and juice drinks) can reduce children's caloric intake by 235 calories per day
- Drinking water instead of sugary beverages can help prevent obesity and dental caries
- Adequate hydration is for health and cognitive function



History of Water Access in BPS

1988

Tap water deactivation in BPS schools after lead testing

1990s

MWRA implemented a corrosion control treatment to reduce amount of lead leaching from plumbing lines. This resulted in some school buildings put back online.

1990-2000s

Boston Water and Sewer replace water mains in city buildings

2003

BPS cafeteria flushing system implemented

2009

BPS Water Committee established

2010

Harvard begins to collaborate on pilot projects to increase access to water in cafeteria and beyond.

2013

Initial testing results presented to BPS Leadership; initial water access & policy requirements sent to all school leaders

2015-16

Water testing of offline schools concludes; implementation of 6 school pilot to be brought back online

BPS Water Access: 2013 Harvard Water Access Assessment

- Survey of all 128 schools, both “online” (tap water) and “offline” (bottled water) systems
- Survey was a snapshot in time

Regulation	Access
MA Plumbing Code (2011) 1 tap water access point per 75 students	The vast majority of “offline” schools & 50% of “online” schools did not meet the new code requirement, <i>(BPS schools are grandfathered into older code requirements for access)</i>
Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (2010) Provide free drinking water where meals are served in school	47% of “offline” schools and 18% of “online” schools did not meet this requirement

At the point of assessment, nearly half of all coolers were not usable by students because of being empty, broken, or not stocked with cups

Bringing Offline Schools Online: 6 School Pilot



- 1. Curley K-8**
- 2. Another Course to College**
- 3. Boston Green Academy**
- 4. Lee K-8**
- 5. Mather**
- 6. Trotter K-8**

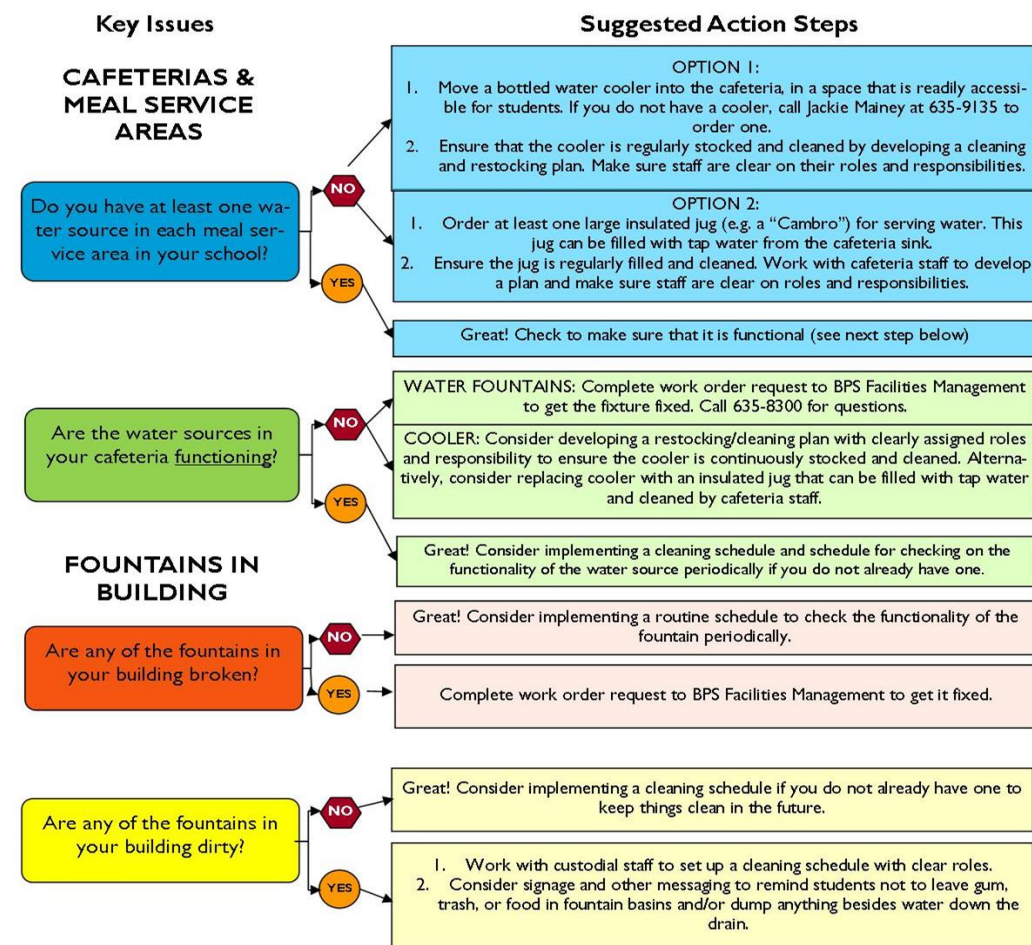
Proposed Upgrades to Water Access Policy

Area of Focus	Proposed Policy (2016)	Current Policy (1995)
Target Schools	All “offline” schools	Focus on high schools
Timeline	Retrofit all feasible “offline” schools by 2025	Undetermined
Access	Require water access in cafeteria, require access throughout the building.	No specific access requirements noted
Protocol	Schools below action levels move to tap water. School above action level stay on bottled water. If school has functional water fountains, they will no longer be supplied bottled water free of charge.	Option for flushing fountains in schools where lead levels above 15ppb.

BPS Water Policy Flow Chart for Schools

Action Steps for Improving Water Access at Your School: Schools with Tap Water Access

Refer to your school's individual Water Access Report. The chart listing water access points will note which points may need actions for improvement, and identifies the steps on the flow chart below that may help.



CLIPS AVAILABLE

Next Steps



- Vote on BPS Water Policy April 27, 2016
- Post data and Report back on online schools
- Date/Plan to GO LIVE with 6 pilot schools
- Present Access to Water Strategic Plan

Thank you! Q & A

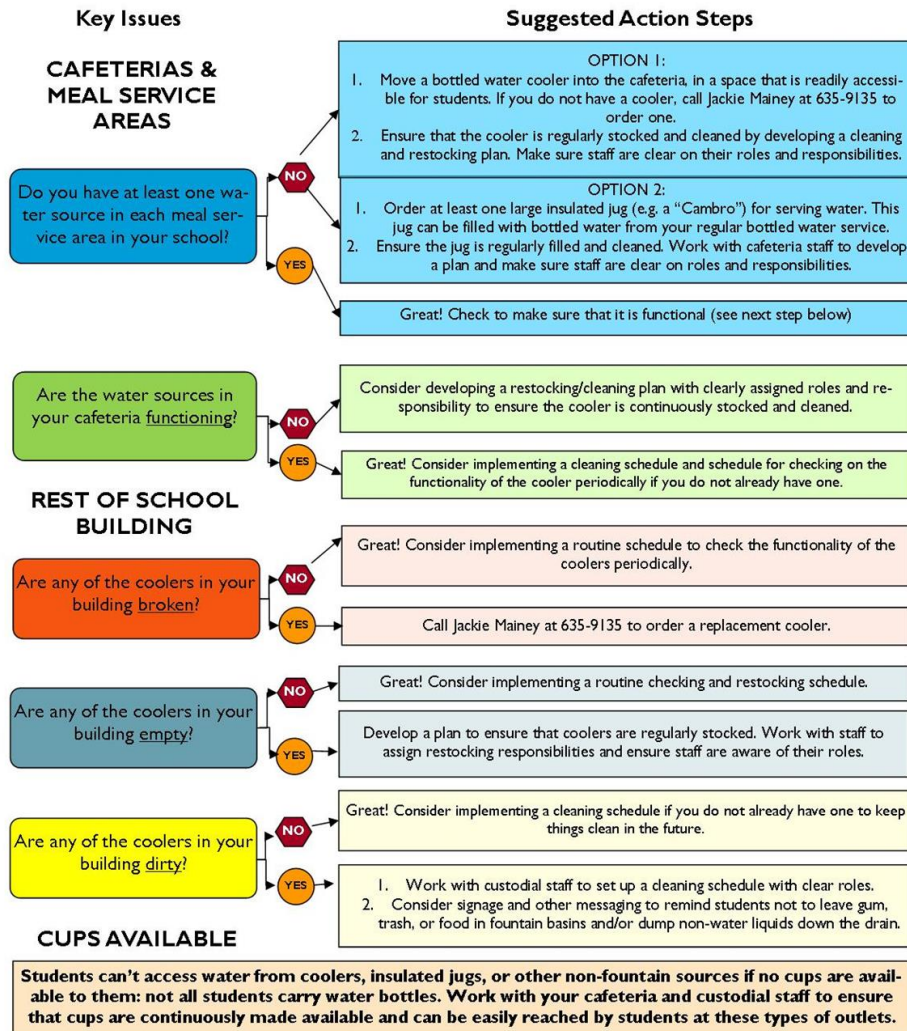
Appendix

Strategic Plan Overview

- Conduct **assessment** of drinking water infrastructure and access in all Boston Public Schools to inform planning for capital improvements (**already underway**)
- Develop an **infrastructure improvement plan** and capital plan for ensuring water quality and water access in all schools without current plumbed drinking water infrastructure and remediation in schools with water quality issues (**already underway**)
- **Integrate assessment** of drinking water infrastructure access (function/access) into **ongoing annual inspection and routine renovations of buildings**
- Institute **standard operating procedures** for routine cleaning and maintenance of all drinking water infrastructure (including cleaning fixtures and bottled water dispenser, replacing bottled water containers, cup access)
- Institute a transparent plan for ensuring **ongoing assessment and reporting of water quality**
- Develop a **communication, education and promotion** program about water quality and consumption

Action Steps for Improving Water Access at Your School: Schools with No Tap Water Access

Refer to your school's individual Water Access Report. The chart listing water access points will note which points may need actions for improvement, and identifies the steps on the flow chart below that may help.



Federal and State Requirements for Providing Water to Students

FEDERAL:

- **Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010:**
Free drinking water must be available where meals are served during meal times

STATE:

- **Massachusetts Uniform State Plumbing Code (248 MASS. CODE REGS. § 10.10, Table 1 (2011)):** Requires a minimum of one drinking fountain per 75 students in kindergarten, elementary, and secondary educational facilities.
- **Legislation (H 4441):** Provide free drinking throughout the school day



Water Quality Results, As of November 2015

	Number of School Programs (%)
Pass: All tap water samples in building have lead levels below EPA action level	79 (89%)
Other: After flushing, building still has at least one tap with 30 or 90 second flush above EPA action level	9 (11%)

- 88 schools are currently “offline”, 45 are “online”
- 89% of schools that are currently “offline” will likely be able to safely provide tap water with fixture replacements or new installations
- New tap water infrastructure would impact about 36,000 students