



American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS, CALIFORNIA



OAKLAND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY



November 1, 2017

Dear OUSD School Board Members,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing out of our deep concern about lead in school drinking water and its impact on children's health. Since the Flint water crisis, more schools have begun testing their water for lead, and far too many are finding lead levels that threaten children's health. We urge you to adopt a policy that truly protects children from this toxic threat.

Just this year, tests have revealed lead-tainted drinking water at elementary and middle schools in counties throughout California, including Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and San Diego. With the recent lead incident at McClymonds High School, we are deeply concerned that there could be serious problems at schools in Oakland. It is known that high levels of lead are found disproportionately in black, brown and poor communities, and that children suffer from the worst effects of lead exposure.

Even very minimal exposures to lead can cause permanent damage to children's cognitive development. Recent research shows that, at blood levels lower than 5 micrograms per deciliter, lead can still cause diminished intellectual and academic abilities, higher rates of neurobehavioral disorders such as ADHD, and poor growth in children.<sup>[1]</sup> Pediatricians across the country stress that there is no safe level of lead for our children.<sup>[2]</sup>

Data increasingly shows that wherever there is lead in pipes and plumbing, there is risk for water contamination.

Schools should do everything in their power to foster the academic success of all children, not jeopardize their development because of lead exposures.

**We urge you to remove lead-bearing pipes and plumbing, install and maintain filters certified to remove lead, and allow no more than 1 part per billion of lead in schools' drinking water, consistent with recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics.**

Sincerely,

1. Jason Pfeifle, Public Health Advocate, CALPIRG Education Fund
2. Pamela Drake, Local Politics Coordinator, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
3. Sharon Rose, Co-Chair, Block by Block Organizing Network
4. Margaret Gordon, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP)
5. Jennifer Shanoski, President, Peralta Federation of Teachers
6. Alicia Contreras, Executive Director, Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation
7. Dr. Vicki Alexander, Public Health Physician, Healthy Black Families, Inc.
8. Chris Iglesias, Chief Executive Officer, The Unity Council
9. Stephanie Hayden, Co-Founder, Smart Oakland
10. Flojaune Cofer, PhD, Director of State Policy & Research, Public Health Advocates
11. Jena Price, Legislative Affairs Manager, California League of Conservation Voters
12. Jim Lindburg, Legislative Director, Friends Committee on Legislation of California
13. Bill Allayaud, California Director of Government Affairs, Environmental Working Group
14. Trish Gorham, President, Oakland Education Association
15. Rebecca Spector, West Coast Director, Center for Food Safety
16. Rico Mastrodonato, Senior Government Relations Manager, The Trust for the Public Land
17. Dan Siegel, Oakland Justice Coalition
18. Colin Bailey, Executive Director, The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
19. Dr. Lauren Gambill, MD, Pediatrician, State Government Affairs Representative, American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 1
20. Matt Vander Sluis, Board President, League of Conservation Voters of the East Bay
21. Coach Ben Tapscott, Chair, New McClymonds Committee
22. SEIU 1021
23. Dan Jacobson, State Director, Environment California

24. Vien Truong, CEO, Green For All

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[<sup>1</sup>] <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2016/06/16/peds.2016-1493.full.pdf>.

[<sup>2</sup>] <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/With-No-Amount-of-Lead-Exposure-Safe-for-Children,-American-Academy-of-Pediatrics-Calls-For-Stricter-Regulations.aspx>