

MASSPIRG

State Program Protecting Children from Lead in Drinking Water

Lead is a potent neurotoxin that impairs how our children develop, learn, and behave. Yet, according to [testing data](#) from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), more than half of the 43,000 taps tested in 980 schools across Massachusetts tested positive for lead.

In January 2020, Massachusetts launched the [School Water Improvement Grants \(SWIG\) program](#) to protect children from exposure to lead in drinking water at schools and child care centers. The SWIG program, funded by the [Massachusetts Clean Water Trust](#), is run by State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). While a statewide health based lead level standard for schools and childcare centers is needed to protect all children from lead in drinking water, the SWIG program offers an important tool in protecting children from lead in drinking water. Today, the program is available to public school districts, private schools and public and private early education facilities, and non-residential daycare facilities that have completed voluntary lead testing and reported their testing results to MassDEP's Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) program. Facilities can apply for grants to replace drinking water fountains, (bubblers) that have tested positive for lead.

Since SWIG was launched in January 2020, they have granted \$1,389,000 to pay for the purchase and installation of 463 filtered water bottle filling stations in 48 school districts. For more information about the program and how to apply see <https://www.mass.gov/school-water-improvement-grants>.

<u>School Districts</u>	<u># of Water Bottle Filling Stations</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>
Amherst Public Schools	8	\$24,000

Amherst-Pelham Regional School District	2	\$6,000
Amherst-Pelham Regional School District	10	\$30,000
Arlington Public Schools	2	\$6,000
Blackstone-Millville Regional School District	11	\$33,000
Braintree Public Schools	9	\$27,000
Canton Public Schools	11	\$33,000
Christ Church Parish Day School	1	\$3,000
Douglas Public Schools	2	\$6,000
Easton Public Schools	1	\$3,000
Easton Public Schools	1	\$3,000
Fitchburg Public Schools	19	\$57,000
Gardner Public Schools	13	\$39,000
Giving Tree School (Gill)	1	\$3,000
Greenfield Public Schools	5	\$15,000
Groton Dunstable Regional School District	2	\$6,000
Hadley Public Schools	1	\$3,000
Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District	4	\$12,000
Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District	1	\$3,000
Harbor City School (East Boston)	1	\$3,000
Holyoke Community Charter School	8	\$24,000
Holyoke Public Schools	5	\$15,000
Hopkinton Public Schools	11	\$33,000
Lawrence Public Schools	6	\$18,000
Littleton Public Schools	2	\$6,000
Longmeadow Public Schools	7	\$21,000
Lowell Public School District	3	\$9,000
Lunenburg Public Schools	2	\$6,000
Mansfield Public Schools	12	\$36,000
Maynard Public Schools	8	\$24,000
Medway Public School District	12	\$36,000
Melrose Public School District	8	\$24,000
Methuen Public Schools	5	\$15,000
MetroWest Jewish Day School	1	\$3,000
Middleborough Public Schools	7	\$21,000

Mohawk Trail Regional School District	4	\$12,000
Nashoba Regional School District	14	\$42,000
New Bedford Public School	32	\$96,000
New Salem-Wendell School District	2	\$6,000
North Adams Public Schools	3	\$9,000
North Andover Public Schools	7	\$21,000
Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School District	1	\$3,000
Pittsfield Public Schools	18	\$54,000
Quincy Public Schools	65	\$195,000
Salem Public Schools	28	\$84,000
South Hadley Public Schools	4	\$12,000
Triton Regional School District	4	\$12,000
Wachusett Regional School District	24	\$72,000
Wakefield Public Schools	2	\$6,000
Wareham Public Schools	1	\$3,000
Worcester Public Schools	2	\$6,000
Worcester Public Schools	50	\$150,000
<u>48 Districts</u>	<u>463 Water Bottle Filling Stations</u>	<u>\$1,389,000</u>