



# FILTER FIRST! FACT SHEET

## The Problem

- Lead is commonly found in school drinking water across the country, including in Michigan.
- Lead in school drinking water is common because most plumbing materials contain lead that leaches into drinking water, even new faucets & fixtures marked "lead free."
- On weekends and seasonal breaks, water is stagnant in school plumbing systems, which reduces the effectiveness of corrosion control chemicals meant to reduce lead leaching into water.
- There are no state or federal water quality requirements for schools that get their water from a community water system.
- Testing drinking water point sources in schools is costly.
- If tests are positive, they only confirm the lead source without preventing or reducing the exposure.



# The Solution

## Filter First

- Filtered drinking water stations are combined drinking water fountains and water bottle fillers with filters that reduce lead and reduce other impurities.
- These devices can replace old water fountains, be retrofitted for existing fountains, or be installed independently.
- These devices must have a filter that meets NSF 53 standard for lead reduction.
- To ensure adequate access to clean water, schools should install 1 filtered drinking water station per 100 students and staff.
- Additional point of use filters should be installed in kitchens and where filter stations are not practical.
- These stations are being installed to remove lead that was found in school water in Detroit, Flint, Royal Oak, Ann Arbor, & Dearborn schools.

## Policy Proposals

- Support a supplemental budget allocation of \$55M for the installation of filtered drinking water stations in all Michigan public schools.
- Additional funds should be provided for the ongoing costs of maintenance and follow-up testing for lead and copper.
- Support SB 184 and 185 which require schools to install filtered drinking water stations that meet NSF standard 53 for lead reduction.
- Ensure that one filtered drinking water station is installed for every 100 students and that stations and filters are properly maintained.

