

## News Release

### Commissioners create groundbreaking program to replace aging drinking water fountains, promote health of Oakland County kids

**February 23, 2018, Pontiac, Mich.** – This year, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners (BOC) launched a unique and innovative initiative to replace old drinking water fountains in Oakland County schools with state of the art water bottle refilling stations. The new units provided to schools via the Oakland County Drinking Water Station Program will give students quick and easy access to drinking water, which is particularly important for young children who, according to public health officials, should be offered water regularly throughout the day. In addition to encouraging healthy hydration habits, the new drinking water stations will also help teach eco-friendly methods of water consumption, promoting both healthier kids and a healthier environment.

“Lead in the water was not just a Flint problem, it’s America’s problem – one that we can fix,” said Oakland County Commissioner Dave Woodward (D-Royal Oak), who led the effort to create this new initiative. “Oakland County kids will be healthier and safer because we’re replacing the old drinking fountains with new safer and filtered water stations.”

“I am very pleased that so many of our school districts took advantage of this opportunity to partner with Oakland County in order to provide improved drinking water fountains to thousands of our elementary age children,” said Commissioner Wade Fleming (R-Troy).

The program focuses on younger children and any Oakland County public or charter school with students age 12 and under was eligible to apply. Twenty-nine (29) public school districts and seven (7) charter schools participated. All eligible school requests were granted. The new water bottle filling stations will reduce plastic water bottle waste and promote more healthy water consumption among our youngest students.

The selected vendor will ship the units directly to the schools in early summer with installation scheduled to take place prior to the commencement of the next school year. The \$520,000 of county funding allocated

by the BOC covers the purchase and delivery of the drinking water station units, but schools will be responsible for installation and any ongoing maintenance costs.

The Board's Subcommittee on the School Drinking Water Station Program, which was established by Finance Committee Chairman Commissioner Tom Middleton, directed the administration of the program. The Subcommittee consists of three (3) members: two (2) representing the majority caucus and one (1) member representing the minority caucus. For more information about the Subcommittee or the Oakland County School Drinking Water Station Program, please contact BOC Senior Analyst Michael Andrews at 248-858-5115 or [andrewsmb@oakgov.com](mailto:andrewsmb@oakgov.com). For more information about the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and its programs, please visit [www.oakgov.com/boc](http://www.oakgov.com/boc) or call 248-858-0100.

A list of the authorized drinking water units are as follows:

<u>School/District</u>	<u>Total Drinking Water Station Units</u>
Avondale School District	13
Berkley School District	6
Birmingham Public Schools	29
Bloomfield Hills Schools	16
Brandon School District	17
Clarkston Community School District	26
Clawson Public Schools	34
Farmington Public School District	11
Ferndale Public Schools	51
Hazel Park	34
Holly Area School District	12
Huron Valley Schools	23
Lake Orion Community Schools	67
Lamphere Public Schools	3
Madison District Public Schools	21
Northville Community Schools	6
Novi Community School District	18
Oak Park School District	30
Oxford Community Schools	18
Pontiac City School District	1

Romeo Community Schools	3
Royal Oak Schools	27
South Lyon Community Schools	19
Southfield Public School District	16
Troy School District	38
Walled Lake Consolidated Schools	63
Warren Consolidated Schools	3
Waterford School District	28
West Bloomfield School District	14
Sarah J. Webber Media Arts Academy	4
Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence	6
Holly Academy	6
Bradford Academy	8
Faxon Language Immersion Academy	3
Waterford Montessori Academy	2
Keys Grace Academy	6

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