



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Michigan's State Board of Education Statement Supporting Whitmer Funding Proposal to Improve Michigan's Drinking Water

The State Board of Education recognizes that children may be more susceptible to the adverse health effects of chemical, physical, and biological hazards than adults. Reduced immunity, immaturity of organs and functions, and rapid growth and development can make children more vulnerable to the toxic effects of environmental hazards than adults.

A wealth of research shows that even a small amount of lead in a child's body can cause serious health problems. Studies have demonstrated lead's compromising effects on the immune system and association with impairments in neurobehavioral factors such as a child's learning skills, hearing, and self-regulatory ability resulting in delinquent behavior.

During critical developmental stages, children spend much of their day within school environments. Research shows that there is no 100 percent "safe" level of lead in drinking water for school children.

As such, the State Board of Education strongly supports Governor Gretchen Whitmer's executive supplemental budget request for the current fiscal year, which includes \$120 million to improve drinking water infrastructure to pursue the vision for clean and safe water for every Michigander.

Funding initiatives include service line replacements, research and treatment for PFAS and other emerging contaminants, drinking water revolving fund loan forgiveness, watershed planning, and research to optimize water distribution systems. These investments set the table for a longer-term funding solution for clean drinking water in the state.

Governor Whitmer also requests an additional \$60 million from the School Aid Fund be set aside in the current fiscal year to install hydration stations in school building across the state, providing clean, filtered drinking water to students in those buildings.

Adopted May 14, 2019

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