



HARPER CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

www.harpercreek.net

Re: Filter First – Drinking Water Information

Dear Harper Creek Community,

I want to update you on the **Filter First Legislation**. This law transitions Michigan schools from a reactive "test-and-fix" model to a proactive prevention model. Rather than waiting for a water quality issue to arise, schools and childcare centers in Michigan are required to install certified lead-reducing filters on every fixture intended for drinking or food preparation before water ever hits a glass.

The Facility Department has been working to map our infrastructure and ensure our district reaches 100% compliance. To maintain full transparency, here is what the legislation mandates.

Drinking Water Management Plan (DWMP): Every school building maintains an updated DWMP that inventories all water outlets, categorizing them as *consumptive* (for drinking/cooking) or *non-consumptive* (handwashing, cleaning, lab sinks).

Certified Point-of-Use (POU) Filtration: All consumptive fixtures must be equipped with filtration systems certified to reduce lead (NSF/ANSI Standard 53) and particulates (NSF/ANSI Standard 42). The state mandate sets a ratio of at least one filtered bottle-filling station per 100 students.

Mandatory Signage: Fixtures designated as non-consumptive (such as restroom faucets, science lab sinks, or mop basins) must clearly display state-approved "Not for Drinking" signage.

Routine Sampling & Maintenance: The facilities team will manage annual water sampling and routine filter cartridge replacements based on manufacturer schedules and filter-status indicators.

A grant was issued to pay for the work involved with **Filter First**. Harper Creek was awarded the grant, and funds were used to purchase and install fountains, filters, and signage. The filters must be changed on a scheduled basis, which was not included in the grant. Facility Directors, other school districts, and the State of Michigan discussed the management of filter replacement. Harper Creek Facility Department came up with a manageable plan.

Our District Facility Plans

To ensure we can reliably maintain water quality for years to come, we have taken the following steps across Harper Creek:

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Administration Offices
7454 B Drive North
Battle Creek, MI 49014
T: 269-441-6550
F: 269-962-6034

High School
12677 Beadle Lake Road
Battle Creek, MI 49014
T: 269-441-8450
F: 269-441-2206

Middle School
7290 B Drive North
Battle Creek, MI 49014
T: 269-441-4750
F: 269-979-4613

Beadle Lake Elementary
8175 C Drive North
Battle Creek, MI 49014
T: 269-441-3250
F: 269-962-4748

Sonoma Elementary
4640 B Drive South
Battle Creek, MI 49015
T: 269-441-7800
F: 269-979-6246

Wattles Park Elementary
132 South Wattles Road
Battle Creek, MI 49014
T: 269-441-5850
F: 269-963-1174



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- **Hydration Stations Installed:** We have installed new bottle-filling stations throughout all district buildings.
- **Common Area Filtration:** Point-of-use filters have been installed on drinking and food-prep fixtures in key shared areas, including kitchens, staff lounges, and nurse's office sinks.
- **Classroom Fountains Decommissioned:** After careful evaluation, we made the practical decision to eliminate individual classroom drinking fountains. Given the ongoing long-term costs of filter replacements, routine maintenance, and required testing, prioritizing centralized hydration stations and common area filtration ensures our finance and maintenance teams can maintain full compliance and water safety district-wide.

Current Status & Implementation

We are pleased to share that our initial rollout was completed in June 2026:

- **Signage Posted:** State-mandated signage ("Not for Drinking Water") has been posted at non-consumptive fixtures (such as restroom and classroom handwashing sinks) across all academic buildings.
- **Filters Active:** All designated filtration units and bottle-filling stations are installed and fully operational.
- **Initial Testing Complete:** Our facilities team has completed the first round of required water sampling and testing across our buildings.

Thank you for your partnership and support as we complete these adjustments. By taking these proactive steps, Harper Creek will continue to provide clean, filtered drinking water for our staff and students.

If you have questions about the plan or specific fixtures in your building, please reach out to the facilities department.

Sincerely,

Jim Robinson

Facility Director, Harper Creek Community School District

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