



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential*

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

**BILL:** SB0546 (Cross filed with HB0636)  
**TITLE:** School Buildings - Drinking Water Outlets - Elevated Level of Lead (Safe School Drinking Water Act)  
**DATE:** 2/24//2021  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** SB0546.

The action level designated by both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of the Environment was 20 parts per billion (ppb). In May 2019, the Montgomery County Council passed legislation that lowered the action level to 5 ppb.

Senate Bill 546 aligns state standards with Montgomery County standards and lowers the standard from 15 ppb to 5 ppb of the amount of lead allowed in drinking water. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has already been remediating water outlets and continues to work towards lower lead levels. MCPS supports the 5 ppb action level.

#### MCPS practices:

- Since 2018, MCPS tested 13,719 drinking water outlets. 246 (1.8 percent) exceeded the action level of 20 ppb and 1,522 (11 percent) exceeded the action level of 5 ppb. Retesting is currently underway and there is no new data on systemwide testing.
- In compliance with the new County regulations, all drinking water outlets with sample results exceeding the action level of 5 ppb were taken out of service. A remedial action plan was developed based on analysis of sample results and outlet usage. Outlets are not returned to service until post-remediation testing confirms sample results are below the action level.
- MCPS communicates water testing results to schools, regulatory and health agencies, and on the MCPS website.
- In addition, MCPS follows best practices, including flushing drinking water outlets on a daily basis.

For these reasons, the Board **supports** this legislation and urges a favorable report.