



American  
Heart  
Association



Latin  
Academy  
of Workforce Development, Inc.

**Final Talking Points for the MMSD Board of Education Meeting  
Water Access in the Wellness Policy  
September 28, 2022**

Thank you, Health Champions, for your advocacy to date on the MMSD Wellness Policy. We are asking you to submit written testimony OR to register to speak (either in person or virtually) at the MMSD Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, September 28.

**Board of Education Meeting**

6 pm

Auditorium, Doyle Administration Building

545 W. Dayton Street

Madison

[Virtual Link to Watch](#)

\*Written testimony and public comments will be heard at the beginning of the meeting – approximately 6-6:30pm\*.

**Ways to Share Your Voice**

1. **[Submit Written Testimony](#) prior to the meeting** (this is currently open and will close at 3 pm on Wednesday afternoon)  
Statements will be attached to the agenda for that meeting, and a summary will be read during the meeting by the board president or chair of the meeting. Please indicate that you are against the current Wellness Policy and support an amendment to the policy (highlighted in bold below).
2. **Register to Speak at the meeting:**
  - [Virtual comments](#) (this registration opens at 5 pm on Wednesday)
  - In-person (register on-site, opens at 5 pm on Wednesday)
3. If you are not able to speak virtually or in-person at the school board meeting, please **send an email to the following School Board members** urging them to support an amendment to the current Wellness Policy:
  - [Chris Gomez – Schmitt](#)
  - [Nichelle Nichols](#)
  - [Maia Pearson](#)
  - [Laura Simkin](#)

## KEY POINTS TO INCLUDE

### Thank you!

- Thank you to the MMSD school board members and staff who have met with us to hear feedback on our interests in ensuring that all students and staff across the district have equitable access to water.
- We are so pleased that all MMSD school buildings have been outfitted with water bottle filling stations through use of ESSAR funds. Thank you for prioritizing this in school improvements.
- You heard our request for the ability for students to carry water bottles during the school day and we are pleased that this is in the policy section of the Wellness Policy.

### We need to do more tonight:

- The current language in the Wellness Policy does not ensure that future students and staff will have access to water bottle filling stations, as we have not guaranteed that newly built or buildings undergoing major renovations will be required to include these stations.
- **We ask you to support an amendment to the policy section of the Wellness Policy that includes the placement of water bottle filling stations in newly built or renovated MMSD buildings, and includes the placement criteria recommended by the American Heart Association.**
- Placement criteria ensure that water is placed at “easy to use” locations including the gymnasium and cafeteria and avoids students having to take long trips across the building to fill their water bottles.
- We have heard that specific details are usually not included in the policy section of the Wellness Policy, however, there are sections which include metrics, such as guidelines around the length of meals (“at least 10 mins for breakfast and 20 minutes for lunch”) and recess (“at least 30 minutes for elementary....20-30 for middle school). As a core component of school health, water access should be prioritized and specified alongside physical activity and nutrition.
- Our coalition is asking for transparency and equity in this policy ask. *Passing this language and making it a binding part of the policy ensures equitable water access for all students in all school buildings, no matter the administration in charge.*
- The district, school board, and community have made so much progress on this crucial school health issue. We’re almost across the finish line. This final amendment inclusion is important, achievable, and ensures that MMSD will be a leader in equitable water access across its schools for years to come. Let’s get it across the finish line tonight.

Thank you!