



## Water Filling Stations in Schools Connecting with MMSD School Board Members Email/Call Guide

Use this step-by-step guide to plan what you'll say to school board members to express your support for the water policy. Feel free to personalize your note or use some of our suggestions. Need additional help? Email Shawn Koval at [skoval@uwhealth.org](mailto:skoval@uwhealth.org).

### 1. Sample Opening

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ (name of School Board member) –

I am writing (calling) today to ask for your support of the Water Access Policy in the MMSD Wellness Policy.

### 2. Select **one** or **two** of these points:

- All children no matter where they live, should have access to clean, safe drinking water.
- Establishing healthy habits early is key to a healthy future.
- Many children do not drink enough water; providing access in school can increase the amount of water children drink.
- Water access is part of creating a healthy school environment that helps set children up for a healthy future.
- Water plays an important role in maintaining a child's overall health.
- Drinking water instead of sugary drinks can help children grow up at a healthy weight.
- Drinking water can help children learn better.
- Children who drink water instead of sugary drinks are less likely to have cavities.
- Studies have shown there are more germs on an average classroom water fountain spigot than on a toilet seat.
- Safe and appealing water should be available in schools at no charge to students and staff.
- Drinking water is important for a child's health.
- We must find ways to make water more accessible and appealing in the school environment.

- We must ensure the water is clean and safe to drink. Water filling stations can be sensory activated, helping to prevent germ transfer. They can also filter lead and other contaminants.

**3. Share a personal story or reason why this is important to you, your child and/or your family.**

**4. Thank you for your commitment to providing water bottle filling stations in MMSD school buildings in 2022:**

Select **one** or **two** of these points:

- MMSD has been a leader in improving access to water. The Got Water? Program has been hugely successful with students and faculty. This collaborative project between the Madison Water Utility, MMSD, and the Healthy Kids Collaborative installed water bottle filling stations in 30 MMSD elementary and middle schools from 2015-2020.
  - More recently, the School Board invested funding to replace water fountains with water filling station/fountain combo units in schools throughout the district. Thank you!
  - Moving forward, let's make sure water filling stations are included in all newly built schools and as part of major renovations.
  - And let's permanently change school policy and allow all children to carry water bottles in the classroom, keeping water within reach for all students.
- 5. We are asking that you include language in the Wellness Policy to include water filling stations to be installed in new schools being built or schools going through major renovations. These stations feature a water bottle filler, often with a traditional water fountain or bubbler.**

We are also advocating for students to be allowed to carry water bottles into the classroom.

**6. Sample Closing**

Thank you for your interest in supporting children, families and MMSD staff through this meaningful commitment to water access.

Signed,

Name

Address

Email/Telephone Number

### MMSD School Board Members & Contact Information

All 7 adult members can be reached at once by e-mailing [board@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:board@madison.k12.wi.us).

Student reps can cast advisory votes but not “official” votes.

<b>Name (Position)</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Ali Muldrow (President)	<a href="mailto:ajmuldrow@madison.k12.wi.us">ajmuldrow@madison.k12.wi.us</a>	608-213-6579
Savion Castro (Vice President)	<a href="mailto:sjcastro@madison.k12.wi.us">sjcastro@madison.k12.wi.us</a>	608-800-1994
Nicki Vander Meulen	<a href="mailto:nkvander@yahoo.com">nkvander@yahoo.com</a>	608-332-2807
Christina Gomez Schmidt	<a href="mailto:gomezschmidt@madison.k12.wi.us">gomezschmidt@madison.k12.wi.us</a>	608-206-4478
Maia Person	<a href="mailto:mpearson2@madison.k12.wi.us">mpearson2@madison.k12.wi.us</a>	608-663-1659
Nichelle Nichols	<a href="mailto:nichellenichols@madison.k12.wi.us">nichellenichols@madison.k12.wi.us</a>	608-658-5252
Laura Simkin	<a href="mailto:lsimkin@madison.k12.wi.us">lsimkin@madison.k12.wi.us</a>	608-346-9481
Namrata Pandey (Student Rep)	<a href="mailto:npandey@madison.k12.wi.us">npandey@madison.k12.wi.us</a>	608-977-2289
Gordon Allen (Alternate Student Rep)	<a href="mailto:glallen@madison.k12.wi.us">glallen@madison.k12.wi.us</a>	608-400-7135

### Additional Resources

Need help with your email or would like support for a phone call? Water Access Campaign staff will host virtual office hours from **1 – 2 pm on Fridays** beginning Friday, May 16. Stop by with questions or just a helping hand.

### [Virtual Office Hours](#)