

St. Albans City School

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Senate Education Committee

S.40 - Testing for Lead in Water Supplies (Schools; ChildcAre Facilities)

Testimony from Principal, Joan Cavallo and Facility Manager, Robin Boudreau

January 29, 2019.

St. Albans City School was one of the original pilot schools working with the Vermont Department of Health on the lead testing. This was highly successful for us because;

1. There was no charge for all of the testing (we had to test 115 faucets).
2. There was only one issue with our test (a faucet we didn't realize we had). The cost to fix was \$150.00.
3. Our facility manager and team only needed to spend about 20 hours on it because of how well it was supported by the Vermont Department of Health.

We do not have issues of deferred maintenance, so when asked to join the pilot we expected good results and were pleased and glad to find and fix the one issue. Schools that have not had the support and awareness to provide this level of maintenance may require more expensive interventions.

Reading the proposed legislation, we would like to make a few points.

First, having a school maintain this data for 10 years is not helpful. Once corrective action is taken, the data is not needed because new plumbing changes will all be lead free. If this data is required to be kept we strongly recommend you look to a place where data is already held such as the district or state level.

Second, our process went so well because of the support we got from the Vermont Department of Health. They made this very doable with minimal effort on the part of the school.

Finally, our school did achieve the 1ppb, which is better than the EPA requirement, yet we have done extensive maintenance in our school, and we were aware of lead issues in buildings started in 1968 and did extensive maintenance in the years before testing. Please be aware

that other schools may not be in the same position. They should have the same safe water, and they will need support to get there.