

**TO:** Health and Human Services Committee

**FROM:** Victoria Wallack, Communications and Government Relations Director  
Maine School Management Association

**DATE:** March 17, 2021

**RE:** L.D. 206—Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 234: Lead Testing in School Drinking Water Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

We were asked to give examples of mitigation costs in some of our schools where lead was detected above 15 parts per billion. Below are three examples representing estimated costs of \$90,000, \$30,000 and \$2,000.

### **Boothbay Schools**

From April 2017-July 2019, the school district began testing water because of complaints about the taste of water coming from the fountains. Water testing began and determined source of lead was old fixtures in schools.

The following fixtures were replaced for all: classroom bubblers; kitchen sink faucets; and, hallway water fountains. Classrooms also were fitted with pex filters, a plastic water line to by-pass the copper pipes and soldered fittings from the hallway water pipe into the classroom fixtures.

Over 346 water samples were taken throughout the process and the total cost of this work was \$90,000 plus. This amount is outside of the unknown man hours by school staff to address the issues and the continued water sampling as the district required quarterly testing (33 samples every 3 months.)  
Cost: \$90,000 plus.

### **MSAD 49, Elementary School**

The Benton Elementary School in MSAD 49 took advantage of free water testing being offered by the Kennebec Water District in 2019, and tested faucets and water fountains. Tests found lead exceeding 15 parts per billion – highest in the oldest part of the school that dated back to 1957. The source was solder, old fixtures and in one case a pipe. Bottled water brought in and work done to replace fixtures, with first focus on the oldest part of the school and then the new part, built in the 70s.  
Cost: \$30,000

### **Yarmouth School District, Harrison Middle School and Yarmouth Elementary School**

Voluntary water testing, July of 2016, showed 4 faucets at Harrison Middle used for handwashing exceeded 15 parts per billion. At Yarmouth Elementary, three bubblers and nine faucets exceeded 15 parts per billion. None of the faucets used for food preparation exceeded 15 parts per billion. All faucets and bubblers exceeding limits were replaced. Testing expanded to Rowe School and Yarmouth High School, with lead below the detectable level.  
Cost: \$2,000