



San Diego Unified is a leader on child safety issues, especially on the issue of providing safe, clean drinking water to our students. Our Board has adopted the toughest standards for lead in the state -- no more than 5 parts per billion - the same standards required by the FDA for bottled water. The Board has also set the goal of providing the cleanest drinking water in the nation, something which would require a significant new investment of resources. The Neighborhood School Safety and Repair bond would provide the school district with the funds necessary to meet the new target of 1 part per billion, the lowest rate in the nation.

The discovery of lead in drinking water was catapulted to the front of our national conversation by the disaster in Flint, Michigan in 2014. California took action in response, and began requiring local water authorities to test the quality of water in schools across the state. San Diego Unified worked with the City of San Diego, its water provider, to quickly test every school in the district within 4 months (much faster than the 3 years allowed by the new law).

At schools where elevated levels of lead were discovered in the drinking water, action was taken immediately. The outlet was turned off and students were provided with bottled water equal to their needs. Parents were provided with information by email and through town hall meetings. The district also established a [web site](#) for the public to review all testing results. A full history of our work on water issues is also available on that site.

The Neighborhood School Safety and Repair bond on the ballot this November will be the first San Diego Unified bond since the incident at Flint, Michigan. As such, it will be the first bond to directly address the issue of lead in the drinking water. If passed, it will allow the district to make the investments necessary to meet the new clean water standards established by the Board of Education.

Prior bond measures, notably [Propositions S and Z](#), were passed before the issue of lead in the water coming to the forefront of school issues. Those measures provided for the replacement of old pipes and plumbing fixtures, because those materials were nearing the end of their useful lives, and they were decaying. Propositions S and Z also provided for the remediation of lead paint, a problem that was well-documented at the time.

Propositions S and Z have successfully improved the condition of our schools in San Diego, and they have done the work they were designed to do. The San Diego County Taxpayers Association have repeatedly awarded these measures an A for transparency and for doing precisely the work that was included in the ballot measures approved by voters.

Eliminating lead from drinking water remains an important safety goal for San Diego Unified and for our entire community. For that reason, the District is asking voters to decide on the [Neighborhood School Safety and Repair bond](#) in November. In the meantime, we will continue to provide our community with accurate information on this critical issue.