

## Sample letters to the editor

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(TIPS: if possible, write your letter in response to a recent article. Adhere to word limits (if any), provide requested contact information, and call the paper make the case for your letter being printed.)

### #1. If your school/district has already tested for lead:

To the Editor:

Thank you for your recent piece on the “back to school” season (INSERT TITLE AND DATE OF RELEVANT NEWS STORY). Here’s one challenge that parents and children should never have to worry about when headed back to school: lead in drinking water.

Lead is a potent neurotoxin that impairs how children learn, grow, and behave. Yet from tests done last year, we now know that there is lead in our schools’ drinking water here in [COMMUNITY]. Moreover, because tests often fail to detect lead in water, the threat to our children’s health is likely more pervasive than the results show.

To protect our children’s health, here is a “back to school” homework assignment for [COMMUNITY]: let’s work together to get the lead out. We can start by immediately installing filters certified to remove lead on faucets and fountains in our schools. We’ll also need to replace the lead pipes, solder, and fixtures that cause the contamination in the first place. Meanwhile, let’s shut off taps where lead in water exceeds one part per billion, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Our children deserve safe drinking water at school. Let’s get to work.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[OTHER REQUIRED INFO]

### #2. If your school/district has not tested for lead:

To the Editor:

Thank you for your recent piece on the “back to school” season (INSERT TITLE AND DATE OF RELEVANT NEWS STORY). Here’s one challenge that parents and children should never have to worry about when headed back to school: lead in drinking water.

Lead is a potent neurotoxin that impairs how children learn, grow, and behave. In the wake of the tragedy in Flint, Michigan, more schools across the country are testing their water. And all too often, they are finding lead flowing from faucets and fountains where children drink.

Like most communities, [COMMUNITY’s] schools have plumbing and fixtures made with lead. So even without any testing, there is every reason to believe that lead is contaminating water at our schools as well.

So here is a “back to school” homework assignment for [COMMUNITY]: let’s work together to get the lead out. We can start by immediately installing filters certified to remove lead on faucets and fountains in our schools. We’ll also need to replace the lead pipes, solder, and fixtures that cause the contamination in the first place. Meanwhile, let’s shut off taps where lead in water exceeds one part per billion, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Our children deserve safe drinking water at school. Let’s get to work.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[OTHER REQUIRED INFO]