

UNFUNDED MANDATES ?



Currently, Washington doesn't require schools to test their drinking water for lead or any other contaminants. But two years of voluntary testing at 199 elementary schools across the state revealed that 97% of schools had at least one water source with levels of lead above one part per billion.

Both public and private school districts continue to pressure our legislators to **NOT PASS** these testing **REQUIREMENTS**. Why? Most school districts consider any rule or law forcing them to test for lead to be an unfunded mandate! Bills to make testing mandatory have now failed two years in a row. Since when is keeping lead out of kids bodies and brains less important than an unfunded mandate?

What about a link between lower scores (in SKSD) and score continuing to drop? Could there be a connection here? We should not expect SKSD to be doing more than is recommended by the Feds on testing for lead. Currently that is every three years. It remains strictly voluntary.

Did you know that SKSD has been sending bottled water to Burley/Glen grade-school since 2005? No one can produce receipts for all that water but best guess is that is \$1,200/yr. So fifteen years @ \$1200 a year to avoid solving the lead problem at Burley/Glenwood.

Hard to imagine SKSD will be able to achieve a Top Five Tier District status when they can't "get the lead out" of school drinking water. Do you think there might be a correlation between lower test scores in youth that are ingesting lead? We know that lead is proven to effect cognitive functions, and worse when at a younger age.

We do have some leverage. Don't pass future school bonds and be "extremely" demanding on where we want future levy dollars to be spent before we pass more.

https://www.khq.com/news/state/why-a-proposal-to-require-schools-to-test-their-drinking/article_e0dc694f-0c08-523c-9388-b88787f98aac.html