



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

To: School Food Authorities

From: *Elizabeth Leach*

Elizabeth Leach
School Programs Manager

Date: August 15, 2016

Re: Resources for Making Potable Water Available in Schools

State Agency Memo
NSLP #10-16

USDA has recently released the following memo. The purpose of this State Agency Memo is to inform local education agencies (LEAs) of these updates and highlight major changes and recommendations. We recommend clicking through to read the USDA memo in its entirety as well. If you have any questions please reach out to myself or your designated program specialist.

[SP 49-2016 Resources for Making Potable Water Available in Schools and Child Care Facilities](#)

Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must make potable water available to children at no charge where meals are served during the meal service. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that all schools routinely test drinking water for lead and perform regular maintenance to ensure that drinking water is safe.

For the majority of operators, the potable water requirement should result in the incursion of minimal or no costs. However, costs related to the purchase of potable water for consumption by program participants, or water testing services, would be considered an allowable use of nonprofit school food service account (NSFSA) funds if the costs are determined to be reasonable, necessary, and allocable to the federal meal programs. NSFSA funds may not be used for costs that add materially to the value of the school building and related facilities, or appreciably prolong their life, such as remediation of facility plumbing. However, equipment to filter water could meet the reasonable and necessary tests if the program participants are the primary, if not exclusive, beneficiaries.