



Environmental and Facilities Issues

A new addition to the AESA portfolio, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is beginning to issue regulations that would impact schools. They are now working on regulations that would require the removal of any light ballasts that contain Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCBs). This is a carcinogenic chemical that was used until 1979 as a fire retardant in light ballasts and have mostly already been removed through routine maintenance and upgrades. The EPA regulations would require all schools remove any remaining PCB-containing ballasts within two or four years, with no financial assistance. Schools are already on track to remove these ballasts and will have to in order to fit new light bulb regulations. AESA believes that expediting this removal offers little benefit and could be detrimental to school budgets and operating.

In the aftermath of the revelations of lead in water in Flint, Newark, and other communities throughout the country, several members of Congress have become interested in requiring the testing of school water for lead. AESA is supportive of any action that would place the full responsibility of testing on the public water utilities. They are currently required to test a sample of homes they serve; we support adding schools to that requirement. We also support any grants programs that would provide funding for remediation of any lead-related issues that are found. One such bill, the Get the Lead out of Schools Act includes both a testing requirement and grant program.

Talking Points:

- While the PCB regulations are the product of the EPA, please speak with your Senators and Representatives about protecting schools from overly burdensome regulations.
- Please ask your Senators and Representatives to support the Get the Lead out of Schools Act and any related bills that would ensure school water is tested by public water utilities.