



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

March 17, 2023

Dear Senate Budget Leaders:

As you begin your deliberations on the 2023-2025 Operating and Capital budgets, the Washington State Board of Health (Board) respectfully requests that you consider the following recommendations:

**Please include the increased investment in Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) as reflected in the Governor's budget.** Prioritizing continued and expanded foundational public health investments in the 2023-2025 biennium and future biennia to build and strengthen the capacity of Washington's governmental public health system. These investments ensure that [Foundational Public Health Services](#) are available in every community across Washington.

**Remove or amend the budget proviso in the Department of Health's budget that prevents the update and implementation of school and environmental health rules, [chapter 246-366A WAC](#).** Removing the proviso will allow the Board to update the suspended rules, enabling public health to provide schools with clear, uniform guidance and standards for indoor air quality, laboratory and playground safety standards, and drinking water standards. The current rules are outdated and do not provide the critical information necessary for schools and local public health to assure students can learn and thrive in a safe environment. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, local health jurisdictions have worked to strengthen their relationships with schools and is continuing to work them to improve school indoor air quality. This request is consistent with the findings and recommendations of the University of Washington Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences [legislatively mandated report](#) regarding school environmental health policies, recommendations, and standards.

**Continue funding in the Operating and Capital budgets to allow the Department of Health to continue conducting lead testing in schools and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide funds to schools for drinking water fixture remediation.** This funding is included in the Governor's budget and is important to assure that water fixtures containing lead can be identified and schools have access to funds that will enable them to fix or replace those fixtures.

Sincerely,

Keith Grellner  
Chair