The Massachusetts Health Council is leading a campaign to improve access to clean drinking water in schools. Initially focused on communities that have persistent health inequities, we aim to create a statewide movement whereby state and municipal resources are dedicated to water infrastructure.

We piloted the Access to Water campaign at the Brennan Middle School in Attleboro, Massachusetts on September 19, 2017. The working group consisted of the middle school principal, the parent advisory committee, the school wellness committee, assistant superintendent and the local YMCA. Financial support from a local foundation enabled the installation of five new, modern water filing stations and 500 water bottles were distributed to the students. This kickoff Choose H2O event was held during curriculum day at the school. Our volunteers from the YMCA explained why water should be the drink of choice, the principal of the school unveiled the new water filing stations and we distributed the water bottles. Our pilot in Attleboro is ongoing. The ChooseH2O campaign continues with guest speakers in health classes, student-designed posters encouraging water consumption, game show activities and more.