



AVAILABLE SOUNDBITES

Erie's Public Schools and Zurn Elkay Water Solutions Announce Donation for Cleaner, Healthier, Safer Drinking Water

As part of a yearlong celebration of the 125th anniversary of the company's founding in 1900 in Erie, Zurn Elkay Water Solutions is announcing a donation to Erie's Public Schools.

Natalyn Gibbs, EdD

Incoming Superintendent
Erie's Public Schools
eriesd.org

- Gibbs1: "Our mission as a district is to support both as an urban school district that serves roughly 11,000 students and their families. It is vitally important that EPS is a leader in the charge to provide access to clean lead-free water."
- Gibbs2: "We are so grateful to our partners here at Zurn Elkay Water Solutions for their incredibly generous donation, their lead-free water filling stations and filters help us deliver the kind of healthy school environments that students need to thrive, the kind of healthy school environments that they absolutely deserve."
- Gibbs3: "I want to put today's gift in a broader context to help illustrate how seriously Erie Public Schools takes the challenge of improving the health and wellness of our students, staff and the broader community, and to show how this donation complements our existing efforts."
- Gibbs4: "We understand that if we want to provide each of our students with an exceptional educational experience every day, which is our mission, we must be as deliberate and intentional about improving health and wellness as we are about delivering rigorous curriculum with this gift, Zurn Elkay is helping us to do just that."

Todd Adams

Chairman and CEO
Zurn Elkay Water Solutions
zurnelkay.com

- Adams1: "John Zurn had the vision and the drive to prevent contamination of water sources, but he did not do it alone. He had a family, friends and partners and a community to support him. And it's my great honor to stand here amongst the great, great, great grandchildren, maybe even another great in there of the community that helped him thrive personally and professionally alongside the growth of the company."
- Adams2: "Elkay filtered bottle filling stations or drinking fountains and drinking fountains are an immediate and cost effective solution to the nation's aging infrastructure. Inside, we've got

filters that take all the bad stuff out, all the bad stuff that's in the water, our filters take it out, whether that's microplastics or other harmful contaminants."

Adams3: "On behalf of Zurn Elkay, a company founded right here in Erie 125 years ago, I'm proud to announce our donation of 50 Elkay filtered bottle filling stations so that students, teachers and every staff member at EPS elementary schools can have access to the cleanest, safest, healthiest drinking water that Zurn Elkay can provide the Elkay filter cartridges in these drinking water stations are tested and certified to reduce lead, and they do it right before it goes into the bottle."

Adams4: "The result is cleaner, healthier, and safer drinking water for the kids here at Joanna Connell Elementary School, and for thousands of students at all 10 elementary school districts across Erie, and for the hundreds of EPS teachers and support staff committed to their growth and development. Thank you to Erie Public Schools for trusting us with the opportunity to deliver cleaner, healthier, and safer drinking water to students, teachers, and staff members. And thank you to Erie, the Erie community, for 125 years of partnership and support."

Hon. Joseph Schember

Mayor
City of Erie
cityof.erie.pa.us

Schember1: "For 125 years, the backwater valves John Azer and produced have been in the foundation of an innovative portfolio of water solutions and systems that promote health and hydration, protect and conserve water, reduce waste, and provide safer, cleaner drinking water here in Erie."

Schember2: "I Joseph Schember, mayor of the city of Erie on this 22nd day of May, 2025, do hereby proclaim 'Zurn Elkay Water Solutions Day' today throughout the city of Erie, Pennsylvania, I congratulate Zurn Elkay Water Solutions for celebrating their 125th anniversary. That's really great. We are fortunate to have such a successful business in Erie and wish you many, many continued days of success. Thank you very much."

Hon. Patrick J. Harkins

Representative (District 1)
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
palegis.us/house

Harkins1: "I'm just overwhelmed with what you've done and what I was brought up to speed on. But keep up the good work and you guys and ladies keep studying and in a few years you're going to be running that place too. So just again, thank you for everything you're doing for our community."

Hon. Robert E. Merski

Representative (District 2)
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
palegis.us/house

Merski1: “The commitment that you’ve had to keeping these jobs here in Erie and keeping the work here in Erie, we can’t thank you enough for that. And this is just another example of that an investment in Erie, committing to our youth, our young people, and to our schools because they’re our future.”

Merski2: “We know saying, you are what you eat and it also is true. You are what you drink. And especially now with the microplastics and the lead, we know more and we know that these things are harmful to a developing brain and your investment in these kids is going to pay dividends in the future. And if everybody does their part, then we’re going to create great young people.”

Rob Causgrove

Principal
JoAnna Connell Elementary School
eriesd.org/connell

Causgrove1: “Six months ago, we had most of the original water fountains in the school, they were probably original from the 1950s. We had one bottle filler that we were able to get during Covid, but which didn’t really help when you have 5050 students who need hydration during the day.”

Causgrove2: “Hydration is very important for academic performance in students. It helps them with concentration and being able to perform their best.”

Causgrove3: “Actually, making sure we have clean water, that we don’t have to worry about sediment being in it, is very helpful in the development of young children we have here.”

Causgrove4: “Now that we had Zurn Elkay come in, we have six new bottle fillers, it’s a gamechanger.”

Neal Brokman

Asst. Superintendent – Operations
Erie’s Public Schools
eriesd.org

Brokman1: “So, the School Board passed the resolutions stating that all of our buildings would be lead free for drinking water, as well as water that is used for cooking. And so, we reached out to Zurn Elkay and said ‘Hey, we’ve got this Board resolution, we’ve got the structure in the buildings needs to be updated... what can you guys do to help?’”

Matt Lawrence

Sr. Director – Product Management & Engineering
Zurn Elkay Water Solutions
zurnelkay.com

Lawrence1: “Here in Erie, Pennsylvania, or anywhere else, we believe kids should have access to clean and safe drinking water. And that’s why we’re very excited today to announce this donation to Erie Public Schools, which not only allows us to help accomplish that mission but also helps to celebrate Zurn Elkay’s 125-year history, rooted in Erie, Pennsylvania.”

Lawrence2: "I think it's so unique that we're able to have this opportunity in Erie, Pennsylvania, our hometown where Zurn Elkay is founded at. So, what's awesome about it though is we're not only able to help give back to the community, but we're able to help provide clean and safe access to drinking water - to really help improve the health and hydration of the community."

David Masur

Executive Director
PennEnvironment
environmentamerica.org/Pennsylvania

Masur1: "Well, when we first started talking with the leadership at the Erie School District, the main thing was talking about how important it is to protect kid's health, and we can all agree to that. We know that lead is dangerous, and we don't want our kids drinking it in their tap water and the district certainly understood that. So, then it was really a conversation about what are the solutions we need to put in place and the best practices and once we had that conversation, the district was really bought into the idea that the best and most affordable option is to just take those old drinking fountains out that pose a risk and replace them with lead-filtering water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains and that's how they'll protect kids health and they bought into that and moved full steam ahead."