



CASE STUDY

OAK PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT TEAMS
HYDRATION & SUSTAINABILITY

 **BRITA**[®]
HYDRATION STATION[®]

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OAK PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT TEAMS HYDRATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Oak Park, California

BACKGROUND

Southern California's Oak Park Unified School District includes eight schools and multiple classes ranging from kindergarten through twelfth grade. At each school and at every level, the focus is on providing a balanced education that addresses present and future challenges through academic achievement, personal growth and social responsibility. One part of this effort is the continued promotion of the district's multiple sustainability initiatives.

OBJECTIVE

A limited number of water fountains coupled with minimal use throughout Oak Park USD schools meant an increased consumption of single-use bottled water for both students and staff. District administration found the environmental impact of this disposable plastic proliferation concerning and began actively researching alternatives.

SOLUTION

The Brita® Hydration Station®, a hands-free water dispenser that delivers fresh, filtered water from standard tap lines, was the obvious solution. Balancing both innovation and ease of installation, the Brita® Hydration Station® was ideal for the needs of Oak Park USD. Because its design inherently promotes the use of reusable bottles and cups, the Brita® Hydration Station® can help reduce as many as 36,000 standard 16.9 ounce single-use water bottles in just one year. It stood out for additional reasons as well – other options were “expensive, required lots of maintenance and were unpractical,” said Tony Knight, Oak Park USD superintendent. The district had units installed at cafeteria and library locations in each of its schools, and the Parent Teacher Association began promoting them immediately. To raise awareness about the new Brita® Hydration Stations® and further reduce the usage of single-serve plastic bottles, the PTA sold stainless steel bottles emblazoned with school mascots. The administration also publicized the Brita® Hydration Stations® in school newsletters and emails to parents. “Word spread quickly,” said Knight.

RESULTS

Positive feedback from students, staff and parents was immediate. “It’s been a huge success,” said Knight. “This is the best idea ever! The reaction has been positive from the beginning because people are concerned about buying plastic water bottles and about the cleanliness of regular drinking water.” Not only do the Brita® Hydration Stations® align perfectly with the district’s sustainability initiatives, they are a refreshing and hygienic source of hydration for its many students and staff members.

ABOUT BRITA® HYDRATION STATION®

Brita® Hydration Stations® offer users the benefits of great-tasting, Brita® filtered water at a variety of away-from-home locations without the waste and cost of bottled water. The multiple product options transform regular tap water into healthier* drinking water using a certified advanced filtration system. Brita® Hydration Stations® are certified according to NSF/ANSI Standards 42 & 53 for the reduction of chlorine (taste and odor), lead, and 99.99% of cysts.

*Certified to reduce Lead & Cysts. Substances reduced may not be in all users' water.

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