



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

Date of Issuance: March 30, 2023

Contact: Katie Shea  
Communications Specialist  
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission  
Tel: 413-452-1311  
Email: Katherine.shea@waterandsewer.org



**PIPELINE PROGRAM**  
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Launches Summer Internship Program in Collaboration with Springfield Public Schools**

*The Pipeline Program will expose high school students to rewarding careers in the water sector*

In partnership with Springfield Public Schools, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce the Pipeline Program, a new work-based learning paid summer internship program for high school students in Springfield.

As part of the program interns will explore various career opportunities within the water sector and rotate through different Commission departments at its seven facilities including Cobble Mountain Reservoir in Blandford/Granville, West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant in Westfield, the Field Operations Center in Springfield, and the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (SRWTF) in Agawam. Interns will gain experience in water and wastewater operations, laboratory services, water quality, watershed and environmental protection, engineering, and information technology and cybersecurity.

In addition to the departmental rotation there will be opportunities for enrichment activities including visits to other area water utilities, mentorship meetings, and team building. Interns will also take the Introduction to Becoming a Public Water System Operator Course through the Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA). This course prepares students to sit for the state Treatment I (T-1) licensing exam – the first step in establishing a career as a water treatment plant operator.

Water professionals are in high demand due to a wave of retirements and to meet the needs of more advanced drinking water and wastewater systems. The Pipeline Program was launched to help build the next generation of water professionals by exposing them to these rewarding career opportunities, and to provide a paid opportunity for area youth to gain critical job skills while serving their local community. Water and wastewater treatment is an enduring, non-outsourcable profession that offers competitive pay and robust benefits.

Commission Executive Director Josh Schimmel stated, “Building a new pipeline for the water workforce has never been so critical. This program is being launched when we are experiencing a wave of retirements while also initiating a generational-scale reinvestment in our water infrastructure through the [Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Renewal Program](#). In just a few years we will have a brand-new drinking water treatment plant, miles of upgraded pipes, and other modern infrastructure, but we know that our most critical asset is our people. Through the Pipeline Program we will expose high school students to the many rewarding career opportunities



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

here at the Commission with the hope that they become tomorrow's stewards of their drinking water and wastewater systems."

The Commission is excited to partner with Springfield Public Schools and their Internship and Career Pathways Program on this work-based learning initiative. High school students will work with their school's Career Readiness Coordinator to develop a résumé and cover letter, explore career pathways, and improve their job seeking skills.

"Forming collaborative partnerships with local industry leaders to develop intentional high school internship programs for an urban school district will have significant impact on the students, employers, and region. It's a win, win for everyone. We applaud Executive Director, Joshua Schimmel and his team for taking this deliberate step in developing their local early career talent pipeline," shared Superintendent Warwick. The Superintendent added, "this effort is in direct alignment with our Portrait of Graduate strategic plan to expand partnerships and create pathways for students."

Veolia, the Commission's contracted wastewater operator that manages the SRWTF on Bondi's Island is also collaborating on the Pipeline Program. Veolia will host interns at the SRWTF as part of the internship rotation, exposing interns to the wastewater treatment process and the many rewarding careers in wastewater operations.

### **How to Apply**

To fill the limited available positions in the Pipeline Program the Commission is seeking motivated, hard-working high school students from Springfield looking to explore career options, gain experience, and learn more about the daily operations at the region's largest water utility.

Applications for the Pipeline Program are being accepted now through April 14, 2023. More information and application requirements are available on the Commission's website <https://waterandsewer.org/education/pipeline-program/>. Springfield Public School high school students can also speak to their Career Readiness Coordinator for more information on the application process.

The program is specifically intended for high school students in Springfield participating in their high school's college and career readiness programs. Pipeline interns must be at least 16 years old and a current high school student (including seniors that will graduate this spring). The Commission is working in collaboration with Springfield Public Schools, however any eligible high school students from Springfield are welcome and encouraged to apply. Other internship and employment opportunities are posted on the Commission's [Careers webpage](#).

### **More Information**

Those with questions or seeking additional information about the Pipeline Program should visit the Commission's website <https://waterandsewer.org/education/pipeline-program/>, or contact the Commission at 413-452-1300 or [pipelineprogram@waterandsewer.org](mailto:pipelineprogram@waterandsewer.org).

For more information about partnering with Springfield Public Schools Internship & Pathways Program, contact Pam Mathison at [mathisonp@springfieldpublicschools.com](mailto:mathisonp@springfieldpublicschools.com) or call 413-787-7100 ext. 55130.



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

**About the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission**

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is an independent, regional public utility that provides drinking water and wastewater service to approximately 250,000 people in the lower Pioneer Valley. The Commission provides retail drinking water service to Springfield and Ludlow, and wholesale drinking water to Agawam, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow, as well as emergency/peak service to several other communities. The Commission provides retail wastewater service to Springfield and wholesale wastewater service to West Springfield, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and Ludlow.

**END**