



To: Superintendents and Charter School Directors  
From: Commissioner Brenda Cassellius *Brenda Cassellius*  
Date: April 18, 2016  
Subject: Water Action Week in Minnesota

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Good afternoon superintendents, charter school directors and school leaders,

This morning Governor Mark Dayton launched Water Action Week in Minnesota—a week-long effort to engage Minnesotans in conversations about the challenges facing our lakes, rivers, and drinking water systems. Throughout the week, Governor Dayton and members of his cabinet will visit school classrooms, water treatment facilities, research institutions and farms to encourage Minnesotans to learn more about the challenges facing Minnesota’s waters, and empower every individual to take actions in their own lives to be part of the solution.

We all know that establishing an ethic of responsible stewardship needs to start early. That is why I am urging parents, teachers and school leaders to talk with young people this week about the importance of water in our lives, and what Minnesotans can do—even as children—to leave a lasting legacy of clean water for this generation, and generations that follow.

There are many ways to start this important conversation with students, and I cannot think of a better time to engage students in this topic with Earth Day happening on Friday. There are tips and useful resources listed on the [Water Action Week website](http://mn.gov/governor/issues/wateraction) that you may find useful. Visit <http://mn.gov/governor/issues/wateraction> for more information. Also, the [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s website](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/hows-water) has a wealth of information about the state of our water, efforts that are underway to protect this vital resource, and suggestions on how to take part in the action. Visit <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/hows-water> to learn more.

As always, thank you for the work you do every day on behalf of our state’s youngest learners.

Brenda