

RANDOM DRUG and ALCOHOL TESTING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

After a student is tested how long will it take to receive the results?

Parents of students who test positive for drugs and alcohol will generally be notified within five days. Parents of students who test negative will not be notified.

Have the student consequences changed from last year's parent forums?

The student consequences have changed over time to the current information that appears in the draft policy.

What are the differences in the reasonable suspicion policy and the random drug and alcohol policy?

The reasonable suspicion policy is required of all schools in New Jersey and is based on any student who comes to school under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The penalties under this policy involve suspension from school.

The random drug and alcohol policy will not result in a suspension from school. Consequences are only related to a child's sport, activity or ability to park on campus.

What will you do in the event that a student brings drugs to school?

An act such as this will invoke the reasonable suspicion policy and is not related to the random drug and alcohol testing policy.

How are you going to address the concern that passage of this policy may cause some members of the student body to feel as though they are viewed as participants in drug and alcohol use?

The high school administration will work very hard to allay any student fears related to this policy, highlighting the fact that this policy is about help and education and is not meant to label any group as drug and alcohol users.

How much privacy will there be for a student making a urine contribution?

All testing will take place in a closed bathroom where students will have privacy.

Do the students know that this policy is confidential and what the consequences are?

Class meetings will occur over the next month in order to educate the student body on all facets of the random drug and alcohol testing program.

Has it been determined how many students will be tested each week, month, etc.?

Will the number of tests or statistics be released to the public at the end of the year?

The current draft policy proposes to test thirty students per month. All statistics related to the program will be released to the public following state and federal guidelines.

How will students be brought down to the testing site so other students do not assume they are being tested?

Students will be brought down to the testing location while maintaining high levels of confidentiality and privacy.

How will you address student concerns over students who may be absent from school as a result of this policy?

This policy does not exclude students from school. Students that test positive will be absent from sports, activities and parking privileges, and all staff are required to maintain strict confidentiality.

What percentage of the students will be tested and will each test measure for the same substances?

The percentage tested will vary with the size of the testing pool. All students will be tested for the same substances each time.

Are staff members required to be randomly drug tested?

At this time, staff are not included in the testing pool.

If a child tests positive, but then comes into school and is under reasonable suspicion of use, can the student still fall under the reasonable suspicion policy?

Students are always subject to the reasonable suspicion policy.

Is the ultimate goal of this policy to test all students?

No, the Supreme Court of New Jersey only allows for the random testing of students who participate in interscholastic athletics, extracurricular activities and want to obtain a parking permit.

How many times does your name go into the testing pool?

Names will only go into the testing pool once and will remain in the pool for a twelve month period, no matter how many times they have been selected. Students who participate in more than one sport or activity will have the same chance of being chosen as a student who only participates in one sport or activity.

What is the cost per test and is it a budgeted expense?

The cost per test ranges from \$28.00 to \$38.00 dollars and the cost has been budgeted for the 2013-2014 school year.

If your child has been selected to be tested, how are the parents notified?

Students will receive a form after they are tested that they will bring home and give to their parents.

How long does a student stay in the pool?

Students remain in the pool for a period of 12 months.

Do the 7th and 8th graders have to participate in this program?

No, 7th and 8th grade students are not participating in the program at this time.

What about the students that don't participate in any sports or activities?

The state statutes do not allow these students to be entered into the testing pool, but they may voluntarily opt-in to the program by signing a consent form.