

Student Drug Testing

Frequently Asked Questions

What about confidentiality?

The results of the voluntary drug testing program are completely confidential. The purpose of this program is to help prevent substance abuse among students, to encourage treatment for students with substance abuse problems and to ensure that students have the opportunity to attend school and participate in activities in a fair, safe and healthy environment. The test results will remain confidential and will only be released to the student, his or her parents/guardians and approved school officials.

Who will conduct the testing?

An outside drug testing company will administer the urinalysis testing and the processing of all test results. Upon receiving notice from the administration that a student has been selected for a random drug test, the student will go to an assigned area and wait until his or her turn to be tested. A representative of the school administration or the school nurse will be present during the testing procedure.

How will students be selected for testing?

All students who will participate in covered extracurricular activities during the school year and who complete and return the consent form with the the deadlines set by the superintendent or designee will be included in the testing pool and may be randomly selected. Approximately 15 students at a time, twice a month, will be selected from the testing pool. Each student is identified in the computer system with a number. The selection is made randomly by a computer at drug testing company using the number system, it is possible that your student may be tested more than once during the school year. The drug testing company will not have a student name associated with the number.

I didn't take advantage of the early enrollment – can I enroll later in the year?

Yes. Enrollment forms will be available through the administration office at Jackson High School. Students that want to enroll late would have to be approved by the athletic director and school administration.

Can a principal, teacher, coach, or other school employee select or send my child to be tested?

No. School district personnel do not have the authority or the ability to send any student to be tested. The drug testing company computer randomly selects students from the list of enrolled students in the testing pool.

Can my student be tested more than once?

Yes. Every student in the program has an equal chance to be selected each month. The drug testing company computer randomly selects who will be tested from the entire list of students enrolled in the program. Even if a student has been tested previously, the computer could randomly select them again

Who will know the results of my student's test?

The test results will remain confidential and will only be released to the student, his or her parents/guardians and approved school officials. Regardless of a positive result or not, parents/guardians will be notified through a letter that their child was tested that school day.

How is the urine tested?

Urine will be collected on-site at the school and packaged for testing at the lab. The drug testing company will utilize an instant test for the initial test. If a drug is detected, the sample will be sent to the lab for a more detailed analysis.

What drugs will be tested for?

Amphetamines (speed, uppers, crystal), Barbiturates (downers, sleepers), Benzodiazepines (Valium), Cocaine (snow, crack), Ecstasy, Methadone, Propoxyphene (Darvocet), Opiates (heroin, codeine, oxycontin), Phencyclidine (PCP, angel dust), Cannabinoids (Marijuana, THC, grass, pot) and Alcohol.

What does a "positive" drug test mean?

At the on-site testing, a test that produced a non-negative result will be sent to the medical review officer for additional testing.

What if my child refuses to submit to the test?

If a student refuses or avoids taking the test, parents will be notified. Refusal by a student to be tested when randomly selected will be considered by the district to be a positive test result and will subject the student to consequences as outlined by the policy.

What if I have questions about the detailed lab analysis?

A Medical Review Officer will be available to answer your questions. Any conversation between you and the Medical Review Officer will be strictly confidential.

What will happen if my student tests positive for drugs?

Parents will be contacted by a building administrator and will receive a follow-up letter. The letter will identify the drug for which your student tested positive and include information about that particular drug.

Students who test positive through this random testing program will be excluded from participation in covered extracurricular activities as follows:

First Offense: Exclusion from all covered activities for 15 calendar days.

Second Offense: Exclusion from all covered activities for 90 calendar days.

Third Offense: Excluded from all covered activities for 365 calendar days and will not be allowed to participate in practices or competition during the suspension.

A positive test through this random testing program will not result in suspension from school or academic sanctions. The district will not report results to law enforcement.

When an activity or performance is part of a co-curricular course offered by the school, such as band or choir, the student's grade or enrollment in the course will not be negatively impacted by positive random drug test result. In the event of a positive drug test result, the student will be given alternative assignments in lieu of participation in any activities or performances scheduled during the time the student is excluded from covered activities. During the period of exclusion, outlined above, the excluded student may attend practice sessions, continue to attend team functions and may sit with fellow participants during activities, but may not participate in any activity or performance.

Covered events include:

All athletic games and events for the designated days.

All choir performances and events for the designated days.

All band performances and events for the designated days.

All speech and debate performances and events for the designated days.

All cheerleading performances and events for the designated days.

All scholar bowl performances and events for the designated days.

All dance team performances and events for the designated days.