

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Student Alcohol and Drug Testing	Descriptor Code: 6.3071	Issued: 7/08/13
		Rescinds: JCBDA	Issued:

Students will be notified in writing at the beginning of each school year or at the time of enrollment that they shall be subject to testing for drugs and alcohol during the school year.¹ Principals are authorized to order drug tests for individual students when there is a reasonable cause to believe that:

1. The school board policy on alcohol and drug use has been violated;
2. A search of lockers produced evidence of the presence of drugs and/or alcohol;
3. A search of persons and containers produced evidence of a presence of drug and/or alcohol;
4. A search of vehicles produced evidence of the presence of drugs and/or alcohol; or
5. Through observation or other reasonable information reported by a teacher, staff member or other student that a student is using drugs and/or alcohol on school property.

All of the standards of reasonableness contained in TCA 49-6-4213 shall be met.

Upon receiving reasonable information, the principal shall take the following steps:

1. Call the student into the principal's office or another private place;
2. Summon an appropriate witness to the proceeding and to assist in furtherance of the proceeding;
3. Inform the student of the substance of the information available to him/her which is the basis for the determination that a test is necessary;
4. Inform the student of the procedures which shall be followed in administering the test;
5. Give the student an opportunity to decline the test and inform the student that if the test is not taken the penalty shall be suspension from school and a hearing before the disciplinary hearing authority;
6. Notify the parent or guardian of the student of the impending test.

The appropriate witness shall take the student to a designated place in the school and collect a specimen from the student. The specimen shall be taken in a manner which will protect the privacy rights of the students and which will assure that the integrity of the specimen itself is not compromised.

The type of specimen taken shall depend on the substance in question and the test performed on the specimen shall be appropriate for accurate detection of the substance in question. Once taken, the principal shall give the specimen an identifying number which in no way will reveal the identity of the student.

The principal will forward the specimen for analysis to a laboratory accredited by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment and designated by the Board.

Upon receiving a written, certified copy of the analysis from the laboratory, the principal shall do one of the following:

1. If the results of the analysis are negative, all evidence of the individual test, including all records in the school that the test was ordered and the reasons therefore, shall be destroyed.
2. If the results of the analysis are positive, the student and parents or guardian shall be given the written notice of the result. In addition, they shall receive referral information which shall include in-patient, out-patient, and community-based drug and alcohol treatment programs.

In the case of positive results of the analysis, the principal shall suspend the student and refer the matter to the disciplinary hearing authority for further action.

A student participating in voluntary extracurricular activities may be subject to random drug testing in the absence of individualized reasonable suspicion, provided the standards of reasonableness contained in TCA 49-6-4213 are met.

Legal Reference:

1. TCA 49-6-4213