

Random Drug Testing Policy (DRAFT)

Statement of Need and Purpose

Drug abuse is one of the most serious problems confronting our society today. Results of studies throughout the United States indicate that education alone, as a preventive measure, is not effective in combating substance abuse.

The Board recognizes the critical importance of its educational mission to promote academic achievement and a safe and secure environment at all campuses in the District. The Board has a strong commitment to the health, safety and welfare of its students. To that end, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop a random student drug testing program as a reasonably effective means of addressing the District's legitimate concerns in preventing and deterring drug use.

The District's commitment to maintaining school-sponsored activities in a safe and secure educational environment requires a clear policy and supportive programs that reasonably relate to prevention and deterrence of substance abuse by students involved in a school-sponsored extracurricular activity. The Board believes a random drug testing program is in the best interest of the District's students for the following reasons:

- Use of illegal drugs in a school-sponsored extracurricular activity by students poses a threat to the student's health and safety, as well as to other students.
- A random drug testing program will provide students with a legitimate reason to refuse to use illegal drugs and undermine the effects of peer pressure.
- The random drug testing program will educate, help and direct students away from drug abuse and toward a healthy and drug free lifestyle.
- The random drug testing program will encourage students who use drugs to seek help by participating in drug treatment programs.

Participation in a school-sponsored extracurricular activity is a privilege, not a right. This policy applies to all District students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) who participate in a school-sponsored extracurricular activity.

For purposes of this policy, school-sponsored extracurricular activities shall include any extracurricular sport governed by the Arizona Interscholastic Association and Spiritline.

For purposes of this Policy, drugs shall include, but not be limited to:

- All controlled substances prohibited by law.
- Any legal medication not specifically and lawfully prescribed for the student.
Hallucinogenic substances.
- Inhalants.

This random drug-testing program is designed to create a safe, drug free environment for students and to assist students in getting help when needed. No student shall be penalized academically, expelled or suspended from school because of a verified "positive" test. Likewise, no drug test results will be disclosed or given to any law enforcement agency. However, a student will be removed from the activity in accordance with the consequences authorized by the Superintendent.

This random drug testing program does not affect the current policies, practices, or rights of the District pertinent to drug possession or use, where reasonable suspicion is obtained by means other than drug testing through this policy. The District reserves the right to test any student who at any time exhibits cause for reasonable suspicion of drug usage and remove the student from an activity or position.

The Principal of each school may offer students who are in violation of the district's drug policy a reduced suspension or consequence if they participate in and complete a school approved program designed to address alcohol, drug, and nicotine abuse.

The Superintendent is responsible for establishing and enforcing additional rules or procedures for the District's random drug testing program.

Legal Ref

A.R.S. 15-341