

Student Drug Testing Program: Protecting Our Community

Louisville High School is introducing a drug testing program for the 2025-2026 school year, focusing on students in grades 9-12 who participate in extracurricular activities or require parking permits. This initiative aims to combat the rising challenge of substance use among teenagers, particularly in light of the legalization of marijuana.

This presentation outlines the program's purpose, implementation details, and addresses key concerns from stakeholders. Our goal is not to catch students, but to empower them with a legitimate reason to say "no" when faced with peer pressure, ultimately creating a safer school environment for everyone.

GT by Garry Tausch



Program Overview and Purpose



Who Will Be Tested

Students in grades 9-12 who participate in school-sponsored athletics or other extra-curricular activities for which a grade is not given, to eligible students who wish to obtain a parking permit, and to students who have earned special privileges.



Substances Tested

Five-panel test detecting but not limited to cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamines, THC, and opiates



Testing Schedule

Random testing conducted three times per year (fall, winter, spring) with approximately 25 students tested each session



Primary Goal

To provide students with a legitimate reason to resist peer pressure and decline substance use, not to punish or catch students





Why This Initiative Matters

33%

Increase in THC Cases

Louisville High School has seen a 33% rise in THC and marijuana cases compared to last year

17

2024-2025 Suspensions with Recommendation for Expulsion due to THC

2021-2022 = 4

2022-2023 = 11

2023-2024 = 14

3

Local Districts

Northwest, Tuslaw, and Fairless districts already have successful random drug testing policies.

Northwest has had a total of 3 non-negative results in four years. Fairless has had 3 in three years. Tuslaw has averaged 1 per year for the last ten years.

With the legalization of marijuana and increased social normalization, THC use among students has grown significantly. Vaping technology has made consumption easier to conceal, with THC pens nearly identical to nicotine vapes. This program addresses these challenges by giving students a powerful reason to resist peer pressure.



Testing Process and Protocols



Random Selection

Students from the eligible pool are randomly selected by Great Lakes Biomedical for testing three times per year.



Urine Sample Collection

Great Lakes Biomedical conducts professional, private urine testing with school nurse and administrator present



Laboratory Analysis

Samples are analyzed for five specific substances using reliable testing methods



Results Communication

Parents are notified of any non-negative results, with discussion of potential medication influences

The testing process prioritizes student dignity and privacy. Great Lakes Biomedical, based in Perrysburg, has an excellent reputation for professionalism and handles testing for other districts in our area without incident.

Consequences for Positive Tests



First Positive Result

Option A: Parent notification, drug assessment analysis, counseling as needed, assignment to next 3 tests, no activity suspension



Second Positive Result

Option A: Parent notification, drug assessment analysis, counseling as needed, assignment to next 5 tests



Third Positive Result

One calendar year suspension from all clubs and sports activities

For first and second positive results, families can choose Option B instead: a 4-month suspension for first offense or 6-month suspension for second offense. The policy emphasizes intervention and support rather than punishment, with no academic penalties. Test results do not become part of the student's permanent record, and violations do not result in suspension or expulsion from school.

Drug Testing Policy: Step-by-Step Process

1. Student Selection

Students from an eligible pool are randomly selected for testing by Greatlakes Biomedical. A pass will be sent to the student asking them to report to the training room.

2. Confidential Sample Collection

Professional, private urine testing is conducted with the presence of a school nurse, Great Lakes Biomed technician, and administrator. This process will take between 5 to 25 minutes.

3. Laboratory Analysis & Results

Samples are analyzed for five specific substances. If there is a non-negative test result, Certified Medical Review Officers from Great Lakes Biomed will communicate test results with parents/guardians, offering a professional medical explanation of the meaning of the test results, discuss any potential medication influences, and answer any questions that might arise.

Intervention & Support (First & Second Positive)

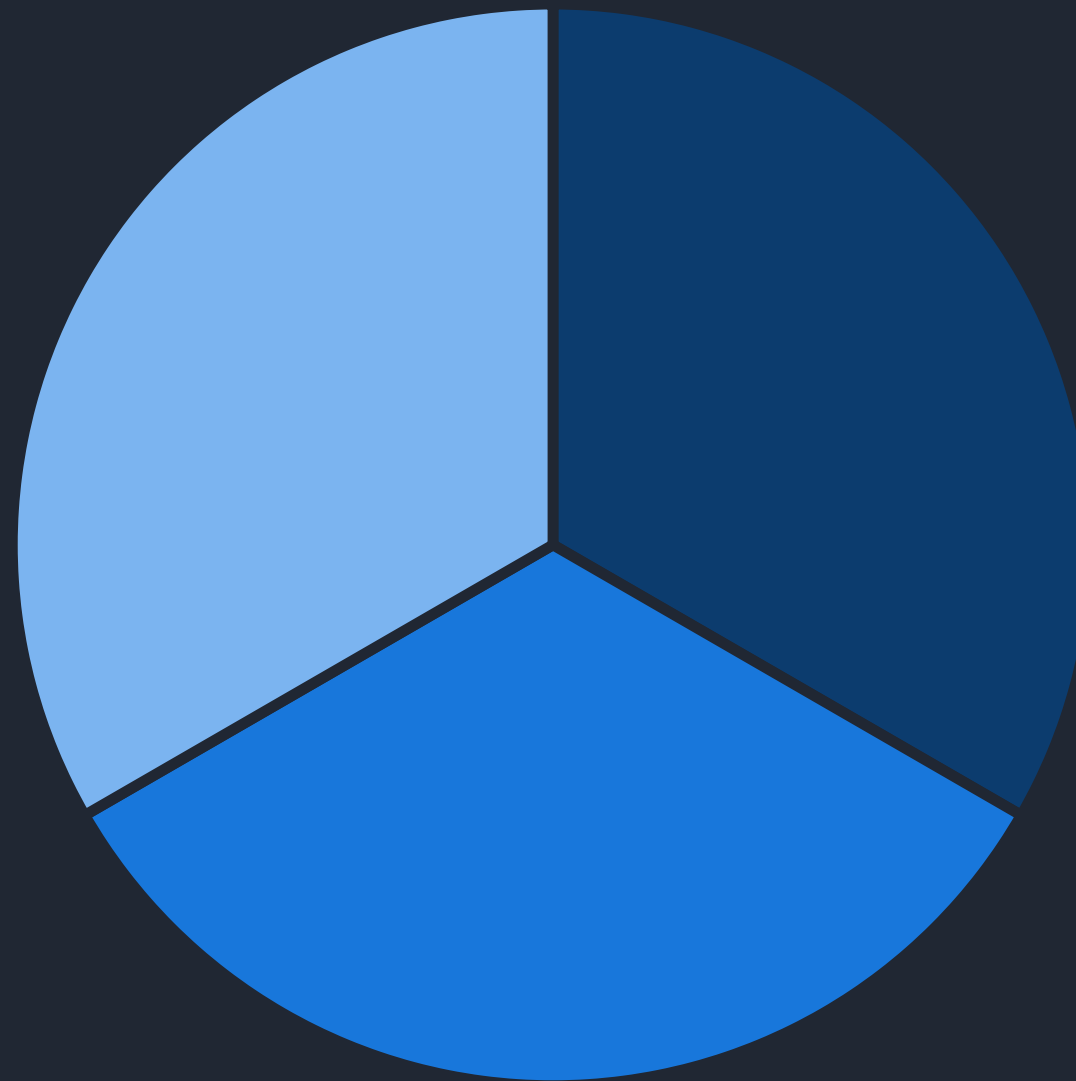
In the event of a positive result, parents have 3 options:

1. Schedule a drug assessment analysis with HWS Best Health Counseling. This is the mental health agency that contracts with Louisville City Schools.
2. Schedule a drug assessment with an outside agency of the parents' choosing. CommQuest and Phoenix Rising are two agencies that perform drug assessments.
3. Do not participate in the drug assessment analysis and the student's participation in the sport/activity/club will be suspended for 4 months

Return to Play

As soon as the school administrator gets confirmation that a drug assessment analysis has been scheduled, the student returns to play.

Implementation Costs and Logistics



■ Fall Testing (25 students)

■ Winter Testing (25 students)

■ Spring Testing (25 students)

The total annual cost to Louisville City Schools for the drug testing program is approximately \$1,275, with each individual test costing \$17. The district will contract with Great Lakes Biomedical on a yearly basis to conduct the testing. This professional service ensures accurate results and proper handling of all testing procedures.

Addressing Community Concerns

Confidentiality

Q: What information will Louisville City Schools collect and record?

A: All results are kept confidential and will NOT be recorded into eSchool or the student's permanent folder.

Q: Who will be involved in the drug testing procedures?

A: A Great Lakes Biomedical technician, our school nurse, LHS admin, and the principal's secretary.

Q: What information will Great Lakes Biomedical record and collect for each child?

A: Student's name, their assigned number, if the test was positive or negative, and the parent or guardian's information (Name and Phone number) for any positives.

Q: As it relates to Great Lakes Biomedical, where is the info stored?

The information is stored in their Randomware Program. This is a D.O.T. approved drug testing software program. The same one we use for airline pilots, truck drivers etc. It is encrypted and secure.

A: For how long does Great Lakes Biomedical keep the information?

Q: Great Lakes keeps the information until the end of the school year and the information gets overwritten when the next list or group of students comes in.

Prescribed Medications the Student May Be Taking

Q: What if my child is taking prescribed medications that cause a non-negative test result?

A: Great Lakes Biomedical contacts parents about non-negative results to discuss potential medication influences. This is the reason the test result up to this point is deemed a non-negative and not a positive.

Financial Concerns

HWS is Louisville City Schools contracted mental health agency. The drug assessment analysis is part of the services they provide to us. If you decide to go with an outside agency for the drug assessment such as CommQuest, parents are responsible for providing insurance or the out of pocket cost for the assessment. For reference, CommQuest charges \$125 for a drug assessment.

Student Perception

Messaging emphasizes empowerment rather than punishment. Initial feedback from athletes has been positive, with many supporting the policy.

False Positive

Q: What if someone in the household uses THC and my student to has a false positive test result because of this?

A: Great Lakes Biomedical has concluded their testing methods will not report a false positive from secondhand exposure.

Decrease in Participation

Based on data from neighboring districts with similar programs, there is no evidence of decreased activity participation or parking permit purchases. Some activities have seen decreased participation while others have increased, but these trends are not attributed to drug testing policies.

Testing Frequency

A student may be tested more than once per school year. The random selection process conducted by Great Lakes Biomedical can not guarantee a student will not be chosen more than once.



Community Engagement and Next Steps

Consent Process

By signing Student Handbook in FinalForms, you are consenting to the new Drug Testing Policy.



Community Information

Ongoing communication will be delivered to the Louisville community regarding the implementation and progress of this program.

Trust Building

Ongoing engagement to build familiarity with the process and demonstrate commitment to student wellbeing

Our commitment is to implement this program with transparency and respect for all stakeholders. The administration will continue working to build trust and communicate the program's primary goal: providing students with a powerful tool to resist peer pressure and make healthy choices.