

USE OF ALCOHOL DETECTION DEVICES

A. Introduction

The Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education is committed to promoting safe and substance-free schools including sponsored activities and events both on and off school grounds. The Regional School District No. 7 Board of Education adopts this policy for all students enrolled in our schools and their underage guests who attend school-sponsored events.

1. No alcoholic or intoxicating beverages of any kind are permitted on school grounds including in any building, bus or at any event or activity authorized by the Board of Education at any time.
2. The consumption of alcoholic or intoxicating beverages immediately prior to or during any school-sponsored event or activity on or off school grounds is strictly prohibited by the Board of Education and is grounds for disciplinary action.

Therefore, in order to promote a safe environment for our students and their underage guests at school-sponsored and/or Board authorized activities and events, the school administration is authorized to employ the use of both “passive” and/or active alcohol detection devices.

The Superintendent shall develop a process and timeline to reasonably ensure reliability of the screening instrument used according to manufacturer’s guidelines, appropriate training of administrators and designated personnel, student privacy during the taking of the sample and security of the sample once obtained. Results of any breathalyzer testing will be maintained in a confidential manner, to the extent practicable.

B. Use of Alcohol Detection Devices

If the Principal and/or other administrator, designee or any law enforcement officer has reasonable suspicion that a student has been consuming or is under the influence of alcohol, then the trained administrator may employ the use of an alcohol detection device.

Definition of Reasonable Suspicion

Reasonable suspicion shall include, but not be limited to, any of the following:

1. Observed use or possession of alcohol;
2. Odor of an alcoholic beverage or the presence of an alcohol container;
3. Slurred speech, unsteady gait, lack of coordination, bloodshot or glazed eyes; or
4. Marked change in personal behavior not attributable to other factors; or
5. Behavior that is risky, aggressive or disruptive
6. Information from a reliable informant.

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C. Prior Notification

It is the responsibility of the school administration to provide prior notice of the use of alcohol detection devices to the attendees of Board of Education authorized events. Prior notice will include, but is not limited to, notification in the student/parent-guardian handbook, notification at school-wide assemblies, notification on event specific advertisements and/or tickets, and notification on guest permission forms.

D. Refusal to Screen

Students and/or their underage guest who refuse to submit to alcohol detection screening where reasonable suspicion has been determined at all on or off ground school sponsored events where prior notice has been given will not be permitted to attend the Board of Education authorized activity. Parents/Guardians of these students will be contacted and informed of their refusal to screen and appropriate disciplinary action will be initiated.

E. Students Testing Positive

Students and/or their underage guests who test positive for consumption of alcoholic and/or intoxicating beverages will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with district policies and regulations. Their parents will be called to pick the student up from the school-sponsored event.

F. Breathalyzers During the School Day

Trained school personnel may ask that a student submit to a breathalyzer test during the school day if, after careful evaluation, there is reasonable suspicion that a student has been consuming or may be under the influence of alcohol while in attendance at school. The breathalyzer test will be administered as noted above. If the student tests positive, their parents will be called and the student will face disciplinary consequences consistent with district policies and procedures (Policy 5114 – Student Suspension and Expulsion).

G. General Screening

The Board of Education acknowledges that unusual circumstances, e.g., evidence of increased use of drugs and/or alcohol, may require that at certain student events, all students submit to passive breathalyzer screening prior to admittance to the event.