

Questions and Answers Regarding the Ellinwood School District Random Drug Policy

The following is provided for patrons to better understand the drug testing program that was approved by the USD 355 Board of Education on 06-08-09 and which goes into effect beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. The official policy is also available on the district website. We hope these questions and answers will help you, and we encourage you to call the school offices if you need more information.

Why is the Ellinwood USD 355 School District initiating a Student Drug Testing Program?

The District has determined that the use or misuse of illegal drugs and/or alcohol and tobacco among students in grades 6-12 is a problem within the schools and community. Information gathered from the student body and from other reliable sources within the community indicates that such use is prevalent within all segments of the student population, including those who participate in both competitive and non-competitive extra-curricular activities. The District has determined a need to implement a program of random testing of students in grades 6 –12 as a condition of their participation in any extracurricular activity.

What are the objectives of the Student Drug Testing Program?

The drug testing program is not intended to be a punitive measure. Rather, the following objectives serve as the foundation for the program:

- to promote the health and safety of all students.
- to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students involved in extracurricular activities to refuse to use illegal drugs.
- to encourage students who use drugs to participate in drug treatment programs.
- to eliminate the impact drug and alcohol use has on the leaning centers of the brain so that students may achieve their full academic potential.

What is an extra-curricular activity?

For the purposes of this policy, an extra-curricular activity is defined as school activities that occur outside of the regular school day. This would include, but is not limited to the following activities:

Athletic programs, Weight Lifting

Cheerleading, Dance team,

Band, Pep Band, Choir, Mystic Blues

Academic teams: Scholars' Bowl, Math Relays, etc.

Debate & Forensic teams, Drama Productions

Newspaper, Yearbook

All School Clubs... FFA, International Club, KAYS, etc.

Junior Rotarians

NHS, Peer Helpers, D-FYIT, Student Council, etc.

Attendance at school dances including Prom, performances, extracurricular activities, graduation, etc.

Which students will be subject to random drug testing?

All students in grades 6-12 who participate in any extra-curricular activity including dances will be subject to the random drug testing program. The following activities and organizations have been identified as ones in which the students involved will be subject to drug testing. If a particular activity in which your son or daughter participates is not listed, please ask building administration if the policy applies. For matters of interpretation, please reference the definition of extra-curricular activities as defined:

“**Extracurricular Activities**” include but are not limited to athletic teams, cheerleading, dance team, forensics, debate, National Honor Society, scholars' bowl, school plays and music productions choir, Mystic Blues, band, student council, pep band, FFA, and FCCLA or other school-sponsored events such as school dances, attending football or basketball games and similar activities.

Does a student need to have a signed consent form from the parent/guardian authorizing participation in the drug testing program in order to try out for an activity or run for an office?

Yes. Before a student is allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity, the student and the parent and/or person otherwise in lawful control of the student, must present written consent to the testing. Both the student and the parent must sign the consent form authorizing the student's participation in the random drug testing program.

What happens if a parent or guardian does not consent to testing?

The student will not be able to participate in or attend extra-curricular activities including dances at Ellinwood High School or Ellinwood Middle School. This includes Prom even if the event is held off site.

What happens if a student refuses to be tested?

Refusal on the part of any student to participate in a scheduled or random drug test shall be considered to have tested positive.

What happens if a student is absent on the day he or she is chosen for testing?

Any student identified for random testing on a given date that (because of illness or any other legitimate reason) leaves school before the test is performed, will be included in the next random screen.

How much is the drug testing program costing Ellinwood USD 355?

An independent laboratory that has met all standards for certification as established by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) will be used for the drug testing program. It is estimated that the annual cost for the program will be approximately \$2,500 - \$5,000. All testing will be conducted by qualified laboratory personnel in accordance with accepted practices and procedures.

What is the process for the drug testing, and what method is used?

Testing is done by urinalysis using accepted immunological screening procedures because it is accurate and reliable. The process includes collection, screening, confirmation, and review.

How often will drug testing be done?

It will be performed at random with a maximum selection of 10% of students in grades 6-7-8 in the pool and a maximum selection of 20% of students in grades 9-10-11-12 in the pool to be tested.

Is it possible that a student could be chosen for drug testing more than once?

Yes, because selection is random and without suspicion, a student could be selected more than once.

What happens if a student tests positive?

Parents will be notified immediately by telephone to determine if there is a medical explanation for the positive test result. If there is no medical explanation for the positive result, the district will be notified, and the parent will receive written confirmation by certified mail.

Who actually does the collection process?

The school district plans to contract with a drug testing Vendor to collect the specimens.

What about privacy and confidentiality, and where will the samples be collected?

The collection and coding of specimen samples will be done in a manner that ensures proper identification, confidentiality, and privacy. The samples will be collected in a restroom suitable for the testing.

For what drugs will students be tested?

Any substance considered illegal by either federal or Kansas law or that is controlled by the United States Food and Drug Administration including, but not limited to the following substances: alcohol; amphetamines/methamphetamines (speed, uppers, diet pills); barbiturates (downers, sleeping pills); benzodiazepines (Valium, Librium); cannabinoid (marijuana); cocaine metabolites; ecstasy; hallucinogens (LSD); Methadone; nicotine; opiates (heroin, morphine, codeine); phencyclidine (PCP, angel dust); propoxyphene (Darvon). Ellinwood USD 355 reserves the right to test for any and all illegal or controlled substances as determined at the discretion of the district.

What are consequences for a positive test?

1st offense – 2 weeks suspension from extra-curricular activities

2nd offense – Permanent suspension from extra-curricular activities for the rest of the year.

What is the process for appeals?

The decision by the principal regarding disciplinary action to be imposed as the result of a Positive Substance Abuse Test may be appealed in writing to the superintendent of schools within five working days. The superintendent shall render a written decision within five working days.

The decision of the superintendent may be appealed in writing within five working days to the Board of Education. The decision of the Board of Education may be appealed to the District Court as permitted by law.