

What You Need to Know about Cabell's Drug Testing Program...



Cabell County Schools is implementing a new random student drug testing program this school year. Here are some quick answers to some commonly asked questions about the program:

Who will be tested? All students who purchase a parking pass at Huntington High School or Cabell Midland High School and all students who participate in extracurricular interscholastic activities such as football, basketball, etc.

What type of testing will be used? Cabell County will utilize a random urine drug screening that is evaluated by a SAMHSA-approved laboratory. The drug screenings will be administered by Sport Safe Testing Service. Sport Safe administers similar programs in more than 12 states.

What drugs will be screened? Alcohol, marijuana, meth, performance enhancing substances, and all commonly abused drugs or prescription medications will be included in the screening.



Where will the testing take place?

Testing will occur in private rest room facilities at both high schools. Students will have complete privacy when providing a sample. A Sport Safe and a Cabell County employee will monitor the testing to ensure privacy.

Who will the results be reported to? All positive tests are evaluated by a Medical Review Officer (MRO). Parents are the first to be notified of a positive test. The MRO may ask parents for documentation of prescription medications at this time. A Central Office designee, the principal of the school, and the coach, if applicable, will also be notified. All results will be held in the strictest confidence.

What are the consequences of a positive test? Consequences range from mandatory drug counseling and further testing (1st offense) to suspension from extracurricular activities for one calendar year (3rd offense).

When will testing begin? Testing for students in grades 9-12 will begin at the start of the 2008-2009 school year. Middle school testing for students in grades 6-8 will begin during the 2009-2010 school year.

Why is the Board only testing athletes and driving students? The U.S. Supreme Court and state court decisions have upheld testing for these categories of students because these activities are privileges. Compulsory testing of the entire student body has been found to be illegal.



Can I volunteer my student to be included in the random testing pool? Cabell County Schools will allow opt-in participants in its drug testing program. There is an annual fee of \$27 for parents who want to include their student in the random pool. To sign up your student, please contact Todd Alexander by calling 304-528-5089.

Why did the Board of Education decide to begin drug testing? The Board is seeking to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing an additional reason for students to refuse to use illegal drugs and alcohol.

What does my student need to do to comply with the policy? Students are required to attend an orientation session. Orientation sessions are scheduled for the following dates:

Huntington High School

- August 5th at 9:00 AM, in the auditorium
- September 2nd at 6:00 PM, in the auditorium

Cabell Midland High School

- August 5th at 1:00 PM, in the auditorium
- September 4th at 6:00 PM, in the auditorium

Students must also submit a consent form that has been signed by the student and parent before they will be allowed to practice or drive to school.

