

USD 343 Random Student Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

The USD 343 Board of Education, in an effort to protect the health and safety of students involved in extra--curricular activities from illegal drugs and alcohol, is considering adopting a new policy for random drug and alcohol testing of students participating in Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) activities at Perry Lecompton High School. This policy will take effect beginning in January 2016.

Q. What is the purpose of student drug and alcohol testing?

A. The purpose of the program is to deter drug and alcohol use and to assist parents and students when needed:

- a) to provide for the safety of all students
- b) to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use illegal drugs
- c) to encourage students who use drugs to participate in drug assessment programs
- d) to promote achievement of each student's full academic potential by preventing the impact drug use has on the learning centers of the brain.
- e) This is an employability issue. Many employers/companies now require drug testing to either receive or retain a job.

Q. How does drug testing help students?

A. The program serves as a deterrent to the use of illegal drugs and provides students with a reason to resist peer pressure and refuse invitations to use drugs.

Q. Why can't ALL students be tested?

A. At this time, courts have not approved random drug testing for all students.

Q. Who will be tested?

- a) Students who participate in KSHSAA sponsored activities and athletics
- b) Students who **OPT-IN** to the random testing pool

Several area schools already have random drug and alcohol testing policies. A few of these are Seaman, Hayden, Rockhurst, Santa Fe Trail, Osage City, Junction City, Hoisington, St. James Academy and many others.

Royal Valley's BOE has begun looking random drug testing.

Q. Will participation in the random drug testing program be required?

A. Yes, all athletic/activity rosters (students will be identified by a number not name) will be provided to the vendor to ensure randomness. For those students wishing to participate in extra-curricular programs they (KSHSAA activities) must have a signed consent form on file before the student is allowed to participate.

Q. Can a student not involved in KSHSAA activities OPT-IN to the Random Drug Testing Program?

A. Yes. Although the USD 343 Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy is designed for students participating in KSHSAA sponsored activities, any USD 343 parent/guardian/custodian may also request

to have their student(s) **OPT-IN** to the random pool of student rosters. An **OPT-IN** consent form can be found on the PLHS website, in the main school office, or activities department. Completed **OPT-IN** forms should be submitted to the school office.

Q. How are students selected for testing?

A. Rosters containing numbers only, of eligible students are given to the contracted drug/alcohol-testing vendor. Students are selected randomly by the vendor, not Perry Lecompton High School.

Q. How often will students be tested?

A. Students names will be randomly drawn on a monthly basis for testing.

Q. What are the testing standards?

A. Testing will be conducted by scientific means using approved practices and procedures established by the drug testing vendor

Q. What are the credentials of the vendor laboratory?

A. The vendor offers the most accurate and reliable drug test available to help companies, schools and parents create a drug free environment. The vendor has a successful history of helping thousands of corporations and schools maintain a drug free environment using their state of the art proprietary testing technology.

Q. What if students are taking prescription medications? Will they show up on the test results?

A. Medications will show up in the test results. The vendor will determine if prescription medications in the amount prescribed could result in a positive test result. If the vendor makes the determination that the prescribed medications were taken in the proper amount, the result will be a negative test. To help ensure valid test results, students taking prescription medications and/or any supplements will write the names of any and all medications or supplements they are taking on the envelope that will be sent to the lab.

Q. Will over-the-counter medications cause a positive result?

A. Over the counter (OTC) medications, if taken as instructed on the packaging, should not cause a positive test result. A positive test result is possible if OTC medications are misused.

Q. What are the consequences for a positive test?

A. Consequences for students who test positive include:

- 1) The student will not be permitted to participate in KSHSAA activities for a specified period of time.
 - a) First violation – 21 days school days all after school activities except practices
 - b) Second violation – 1 year suspension of all after school activities (A student may practice with the team if they will have eligibility available after the suspension.)
- 2) The student is expected to participate in an approved drug assessment program and follow all recommendations, and a written summary of the assessment program will be provided to school officials.
- 3) The student is expected to submit to 3 follow-up drug tests that will be scheduled in 30-90 day increments.

Q. Is law enforcement involved in a positive test result?

A. No. There will be no communication to any law enforcement agency. Random testing is a partnership

between the school and the family with the hope of helping the student.

Q. Are there any academic consequences for students who have a positive test result?

A. No. The random drug testing program is academically non-punitive. This policy is designed to create a safe, drug free environment for students and to assist them in getting help when needed.

Q. Is the same procedure/consequences followed for students in possession or under the influence of drugs?

A. No. The Random Drug Testing Policy should be considered separate from the school discipline actions(s). Possession or consumption of drugs on campus or at any school-related program/activity will result in disciplinary actions. Disciplinary action will be handled by school administration. School consequences resulting from hearings will take precedence over Activities Code of Conduct, sponsor, coach, or team rules.

Q. What happens if a student refuses to take the test?

A. Refusal to take the test will be considered a positive test result and treated accordingly.

Q. Are drug test results kept in a student's academic file?

A. No. Drug testing records will be kept separate from all academic records.

Q. What is the appeal process?

A. If the parent/guardian/custodian or student wishes to contest the results, a second test may be conducted on the same hair specimen at their own expense. It is important to note that any positive result has had two completely separate tests performed – an immunoassay screen and a mass spectrometry confirmation test. Additionally, environmental contamination is a non-issue because the facility utilizes the most extensive wash procedure in the industry. Numerous studies demonstrate the effectiveness of the wash procedure used. The Testing Facility uses a liquefying method to process hair samples. To help ensure valid test results, students taking prescription medications and/or any supplements will write the names of any and all medications or supplements they are taking on the envelope that will be sent to the lab.

Helpful drug education links are listed below:

<http://www.drugfree.org/> This link has a lot of really good information that parents can look through. It includes information on different drugs, how they are used, what they look like. Under the Get Help tab, it has a link to "I think my Child is Using" which takes you to other links to include in on behavioral cues, personal appearance cues, health issues, etc. There is also a helpline phone number associated with the organization.

<http://teens.drugabuse.gov/parents> This site includes links to drug facts, videos, information for educators and parents.

<https://kdads.ks.gov/kdads-commissions/behavioral-health/services-and-programs> --- Kansas Resources