

STUDENT DRUG TESTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 Who is subject to the drug testing policy?

Any student involved in an athletic program, extra or co-curricular activity, or anyone who obtains a parking permit.

2 Will students be tested prior to the season or activity, or before being issued a parking permit?

Students may be tested prior to their participation, however participation is not conditioned upon successful completion of a drug test.

3 Who is responsible for drug testing students?

Testing will be done by Great Lakes Bio Medical Center. Their company will work with school officials to administer the drug testing program.

4 How often will eligible students be tested?

Any student participating in an athletic program, extra or co-curricular activity or anyone who obtains a parking permit will be entered into the testing pool. Testing will occur throughout the school year and will be done in a random fashion. Students are eligible to be tested at anytime as long as they are entered into the testing pool.

5 Will you test a certain number per activity?

We will be conducting random tests throughout the school year. All students involved in co or extra curricular activities will be part of the testing pool. We will test a certain percentage of that pool throughout the entire school year.

6 Why can we not test everyone in the school district?

The law will not let you mandate testing for everyone. However, any student that participates in extra / co-curricular activities can be tested. Also, any student who receives a parking pass, or is included in club activities such as National Honor Society can be tested. You can also have a volunteer program where the parents sign the consent and pay for the test and their student is put in the pool. The law makes you go to school; therefore they cannot make you take a drug test.

7 Why not just use athletes as leaders to start the testing?

West Branch Local Schools would like to involve as much of the population as possible to work toward more effectively changing the culture of the school.

8 If a student tests positive and are out of an activity, others will know, won't they?

All testing is strictly confidential. That being said, students usually do know who is doing drugs and who was at the party last week. A student can give any reason they like for missing activities. If someone suspects a student is missing activities because of a positive drug test no one will confirm that. Hopefully, other students will alter their own behavior so they will say no the next time they are offered drugs.

9 How can you ensure selection is random?

The Principal and/or Athletic Administrator will submit a list of eligible students to Great Lakes Bio Medical Center. They will utilize a computer based system designated specifically for the purpose of random selection. Eligible students selected are notified by the Principal and/or school designee and directed to report to the selection site. Random testing will be unannounced. Each participant has an equal chance of being selected for testing each time selections are made. Great Lakes will coordinate with the Principal and/or Athletic Administrator to select the date and time for testing.

10 What percentage of testing will we be conducting?

The school may test up to 100% of the testing pool.

11 What if the student is unable to provide a sample for testing?

If unable to provide a sample, the student being tested must take the empty specimen container to the monitor pending a later attempt. The monitor maintains control of the specimen container until given to the student for the next attempt. The student being tested must remain in the holding area until able to produce a specimen or until excused by the Program Administrator and/or Principal. At this time, students may be given an alternate test.

12 Can a parent refuse for their kid to be tested?

Of course, their kid just would not be able to participate in their program.

13 What if a student refuses to submit to testing?

Any student who refuses to submit for testing will be treated as if the student tested positive and will not be allowed to practice or participate in activities until such time the student submits to testing and the results are reviewed.

14 How long does it take to get results once the sample has been given?

Negative results will be determined within a few hours of testing. Any non-negative samples will be sent to the Great Lake Bio Medical Center lab for further testing. Final conclusions of non-negative samples will be available within 3 days of collection.

15 Are the consequences severe enough to stop it?

This is a different approach compared to the usual "no tolerance" policies. The program is not meant to be punitive. There should be enough bite to make a difference in the student but not so much as to kick them off the team.

Consequences of Violation for Student Athletes

A. First Violation

Denial of the privilege to participate in ten percent (10%) of games, but must still attend and participate in practices. The athlete must also be present with the team at the games or meets (but not in uniform). These events shall be consecutive starting with the first scheduled event after the confirmation of the violation. Any denial occurring at the end of the season is carried over to the next sport in which the student participates until this consequence for the first offense is fulfilled. The athlete must participate in an assessment and follow-up program. This assessment must be conducted by a certified chemical dependency counselor, an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, or a licensed physician trained in chemical dependency. The athlete must set an appointment within seven (7) days (excluding weekends) of notification of the violation. The athlete must participate in the evaluation process to its completion and follow the counselor's recommendation. Verification of this evaluation must be received by the Principal from the counselor. A written report must be given to the Principal. Any costs for the assessment and follow-up program will be the responsibility of the athlete. Parents are encouraged to attend counseling sessions with their child. The student will automatically be included in the next random testing sequence.

B. Second Violation

Same punishment as the first violation except denial of participation in games will be fifty percent (50%).

C. Third Violation

Same punishment as the first violation except denial of participation in games will be one calendar year and the athlete will not be with the team.

D. Fourth Violation

Denial of the privilege to participate for the remainder of the student's middle school or secondary career.

Athletes who in any way aid or abet another athlete in violating this policy will be disciplined as if they were the primary offender. An adulterated test sample will be treated the same as a positive test result. Consequences for a second and third violation are not based on whether the banned substance detected is the same as that identified in the previous test(s).

Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Participants

In addition to students participating in interscholastic athletics, the following students are also eligible for drug and alcohol testing at the high school:

- A. any student participating in a co-curricular, school club, organization, or an extra-curricular school sponsored activity that requires a coach and/or an advisor;
Eligibility for testing begins with the first meeting through the end of the school year including all activities scheduled during summer.
- B. Any elected or appointed positions, beginning with the election/appointment through the expiration of the term of office/season/activity.

If the student is involved in a co-curricular or extra-curricular activity, the student testing positive for the first time will participate in an assessment and follow-up program and all club activity participation will be suspended for two (2) weeks from the date of notification of a positive test. A second violation will result in suspension of club activity participation for

one (1) month and the student must participate in an assessment and follow-up program. A third violation will result in suspension of club activity participation for one (1) calendar year. A fourth violation will automatically result in permanent exclusion from all extra-curricular activities offered by the District.

This does not include any consequences for violation of club/activity specific contracts.

Academic progress cannot be impeded due to a positive drug test. In co-curricular activities, students will receive an alternate assignment for any activities missed that impact his/her grade during the suspension.

Student Drivers

Students who elect to secure a parking permit from the high school will be automatically entered into the random testing pool for the school year. Students testing positive for the first time will have his/her parking permit suspended for 1 month of the school year and must participate in an assessment and follow-up program. A second offense will result in his/her parking permit suspended for 6 months of the school year and an assessment and follow up program. A third violation will result in the student being banned from parking in the high school parking lot for one (1) calendar year. The student must participate in an assessment and follow-up program. A fourth offense will result in the student being banned from parking at the high school for the remainder of his/her high school career.

In order to be reissued a parking permit after the first offense, the student will submit a sample at the next random testing.

16 What drugs are being tested?

Anabolic steroids, alcohol, amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids, cocaine metabolite, ecstasy, LSD, methadone, methaqualone, nicotine, opiates, phenecyclidine, and propoxyphene.

17 Who pays for the testing/counseling in the event of a positive drug test?

The student and/or the parent/guardian/custodian

18 What is the cost of a drug test?

A 5-panel test will cost \$17 with the option for additional charges for more substances.

19 How is the school district able to afford a new program?

The state of Ohio has allocated funds to school districts for the mental and physical health of students. This program will be funded through those monies.

20 Why now? I didn't think we had a drug problem?

The purpose of this program is to deter the behavior and/or flag destructive behavior with the intent on helping a student before the behavior becomes more serious. West Branch is very fortunate to have very good students, however, that does not mean that we are immune to certain behaviors. We are trying to be more proactive in the fight against illegal substances.