

POLICY 4011
DRUG TESTING PROGRAM FOR ACTIVITY STUDENTS
(created 7/16/18)

It is the responsibility of the Board of Education to safeguard the health and safety of the students in its schools. The district, therefore, maintains that the unlawful use and possession of drugs and alcohol by students is harmful and should be deterred. The Board of Education recognizes that the problem of illegal drug and alcohol use presents a continuing challenge in schools and a clear danger to students. The district's commitment to maintaining athletics, extra-curricular programs, and secure educational environments requires a clear policy and supportive programs related to the detection and prevention of substance abuse by students and the encouragement of rehabilitation of identified users.

Consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Board of Education of Independent School District No. 92 of Pottawatomie County et al v. Earls et al*, 536 U.S. 822 (2002) and other court decisions, the Norman Public Schools Board of Education directs the Superintendent of Schools to implement and conduct a program of random drug testing of students participating in interscholastic competition or extra-curricular activities requiring registration with the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Athletic Association (OSSAA). Participation in athletics and extra-curricular activities is a privilege and student participants, by virtue of their voluntary decision to participate, and because of their position as school leaders and role models in the school community, have a heightened responsibility to be drug and alcohol free.

Though the purpose of this policy is in the governance of extra-curricular activities; the district recognizes that there are parents in the school community who may wish their child to participate in the program regardless of whether their child is involved in an extra-curricular activity. For this reason, the district will allow the participation of non-activity students (under the age of 18), at parent request, even though such allowance is outside the original scope of this policy.

The principal and their designee will oversee the enforcement of this policy and related regulations at each school site. The District Athletic Director will oversee districtwide program direction. The district is committed to being proactive in ensuring the safety of all students and sees this as an important component of district safety efforts.

The primary emphasis in administering this program will be deterrence and remediation rather than the punishment of pupils who test positive for non-prescribed medications, illegal drugs, or their metabolites. This emphasis does not preclude application of existing policies concerning alcohol and drugs if a student is found to be in possession, engaged in distribution, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Consequences for a pupil who tests positive for these substances will be administered according to Board policy. This policy is NOT intended to be disciplinary or punitive in nature as it relates to loss of instructional time. No student will be suspended from school as a sole result of any confirmed positive test conducted by the school district under this random drug testing program.

This policy and its implementing regulations will be made available to all staff, students, and parents/guardians on an annual basis. Copies will be available in each high school building and notification of its availability will appear annually in student handbooks at the high school and middle school level. Student consent is required for parent notification regarding results of testing once a student reaches their eighteenth (18th) birthday, even if it was the parent who originally requested testing. Students aged eighteen (18) and over may request to be

withdrawn from this program at any time without parent consent; however, students who do so and who are activity students will not be allowed to participate or enroll in any athletic or other extra-curricular activity unless a new “Student Drug Testing Consent Form” is signed by the adult student.