

STHS Random Drug Testing Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is this drug testing policy being put into place?

A: Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, and participants need to be exemplars. The District also wants to foster health, safety, and the welfare of its students.

Q: Who is required to participate in the extracurricular drug testing program?

A: All extracurricular participants. This includes all athletics, teams, clubs, councils, plays or musicals. A full list of activities is listed on the consent form.

Q: For what substances will a student be tested?

A: Amphetamines (speed), anabolic steroids, barbiturates (painkillers), benzodiazepines (anti-anxiety drugs/muscle relaxants), cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates (heroin), PCP (angel dust), and propoxyphene (painkillers).

Q: What if a student is prescribed medication?

A: Students will be asked to provide a confidential list of any medications he/she is prescribed that may cause a positive test.

Q: What if parent(s)/guardian(s) do not sign his/her student's extracurricular drug testing program consent form?

A: In order to tryout or participate in any extracurricular activities, students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) must consent to the random drug testing program. Without a consent form, students will not be permitted to participate.

Q: Must a consent form be signed each year?

A: Once a student is entered into the extracurricular drug testing program, he/she will remain in the program for his/her entire attendance at Seneca High School.

Q: Is there any way to withdraw consent?

A: There are 4 circumstances under which parent(s)/guardian(s) may submit a request for withdrawal of consent form. If a student **does not make a team or activity** for which he/she tries out for, if a student **voluntarily quits a team or activity** in which he/she was participating, if a student is **removed from the team or activity** in which he/she was participating, or if a student is a **senior** who just concluded his/her last extracurricular event.

Q: If parent(s)/guardian(s) submit a request for withdrawal of consent form, can their students decide later to resume participation in an extracurricular activity?

A: Yes, if a student changes his/her mind after already withdrawing from the extracurricular drug testing program, all he/she needs to do is sign another extracurricular drug testing program consent form **AND** will automatically be tested on the next scheduled test date. The cost of this test, however, will be the parent(s)/guardian(s) responsibility.

Q: How will parent(s)/guardian(s) know if their student has been randomly selected to be tested?

A: On the day of the test, an administrator will notify parent(s)/guardian(s) by telephone that his/her student was randomly selected to be tested. Once the results are in, regardless of the outcome, those parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified by phone and certified mail.

Q: Who will see the test results?

A: The test results will only be disclosed to the tested students, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), the principal, and the principal's designee.

Q: How are the tests random?

A: When students are entered into the testing pool, they are assigned a number. Before each test, the testing organization will randomly select 20 numbers that will be sent to the principal. The first ten numbers will be tested that day, and the remaining ten numbers are alternates in case of an absence.

Q: How often will the tests be conducted?

A: The tests will be once a month. The day or week of the month will vary so that there is no pattern for students to predict.

Q: What if students are absent on the day of their test?

A: Students will remain eligible in the event that they are absent the day of their test, but will automatically be tested during the next scheduled testing date.

Q: If a student tests positive, will he/she be suspended from Seneca High School?

A: No, we will not suspend anyone or involve law enforcement upon any positive test.

Q: If a student tests positive, will the result be on his/her permanent record?

A: No, the test results will be kept separate from all students' records. Upon graduation, transfer, or permanent withdrawal, all past test results will be destroyed.

Q: What if a student refuses to be tested upon being randomly selected?

A: This will be viewed as a positive test result, and the student will be ineligible based on the frequency of positives tests, taking into account past occurrences.

Q: What if a student tampers with or cheats during specimen collection?

A: He/She will be ineligible for all extracurricular activities for one calendar year from the date of the infraction.

Q: If a student is tested, can he/she be tested again during the same year?

A: Yes, the student's numbers that are tested will be put back into the testing pool. However, if a student is tested three times during one school year, the student's number will not be put back in the testing pool until the start of the next school year.

Q: What is the testing process?

A: If selected, students will be escorted by the athletic director to the designated testing area. These selected students will provide a urine sample and give it directly to the testing organization employee.

Q: Is the testing area private?

A: Yes, the testing area consists of a restroom in which only the student being tested will occupy.

Q: Can parent(s)/guardian(s) request a re-test if his/her student tests positive?

A: Yes, parent(s)/guardian(s) have 24 hours after notification of a positive test to request a re-test, but the cost of the re-test is the parent(s)/guardian(s) responsibility. The re-test will be performed on the same specimen used for the first test, so those students will not need to provide new specimen.

Q: What are the consequences if a student tests positive?

A: For a **first offense**, a student will be ineligible for 33% of his/her season(s). For a **second offense**, a student will be ineligible from all extracurricular activities for 180 school days. For a **third offense**, a student will be ineligible from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of his or her attendance at Seneca High School.

Q: Is there any way for a student to reduce a period of ineligibility due to a positive test result?

A: Yes. If a student enrolls in a certified and school approved drug education or rehabilitation program, he/she may reduce his/her first offense sentence from 33% to 20% of his/her season(s), and his/her second offense sentence from 180 school days to 90 school days. However, this opportunity can only be used once. If a student uses this ineligibility reduction option after his/her first offense, he/she no longer has the option to use this after his/her second offense. Also, the cost of any drug education or rehabilitation program will be the responsibility of the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).

Q: After a student's period of ineligibility, is he/she automatically eligible again?

A: Not quite. A student would be required to be re-tested and test negative after his/her period of ineligibility in order to be deemed eligible again. If the test is positive again, it will be considered a second or third violation. The cost of this test would be the parent(s)/guardian(s) responsibility, and the student is required to have this test done at the high school using the high school's testing organization.

Q: What if the substance a student tests positive for is still lingering in his/her system by the time he/she re-tests for re-eligibility?

A: The employees of our testing organization will be able to tell if the levels of concentration have gone down enough to deem the test negative.