

Students

Drug Testing Policy

The Board of Education believes that the use of alcohol or drugs by students who participate in extra-curricular activities presents a particular hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of the student and to those who compete with the student. The Board encourages students to participate in extra-curricular activities, but believes the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored extra-curricular activities is not a right. Rather, it is a privilege offered to eligible students on an equal opportunity basis. To be eligible to participate in any school-sponsored extra-curricular activity program students must agree to submit to random testing for the use of illegal drugs, if selected, in accordance with this policy.

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health, welfare, and safety of students engaged in extra-curricular activities. It is to better assure the student's health and physical fitness to participate in extra-curricular activities and not to provide a means, which the district may use to punish a student other than by disqualification from participation in extra-curricular activities. Accordingly, the results of any drug test administered under this policy shall be used only for determination of eligibility to try out for, or participate in extra-curricular activities and for no other disciplinary purpose.

The decision to implement the Drug Testing Program is the result of increased student reporting of illegal drug use amongst their peers and the increase in the Athletic and Activities Code of Conduct infractions.

The Blue Ridge CUSD No. 18 Drug Testing Policy is in addition to the IHSA Drug Testing Program. Both forms must be signed in order for a student to participate.

Definitions

- A. **Extra-Curricular Activities**—School-sponsored activities outside regular instructional time in the school day, conducted by and representing Blue Ridge CUSD #18 where participation is voluntary and no academic credit or grades are awarded. When an activity or performance is part of a course offered by the school, such as FFA, the student's grade or enrollment in the course will not be conditioned upon consenting to drug testing. However, the student will be given an alternative assignment in lieu of the activity or performance if the student and his/her parents do not consent to drug testing. The students enrolled in these courses will be notified at the beginning of each semester, if possible, which activities or performances they will be precluded from participating in and the alternative assignments.
- B. **Extra-Curricular Participant**—Any student who is trying out for or participating in any school-sponsored extra-curricular activity.
- C. **Alcohol**—Any liquor, wine, beer, or other drink containing alcohol.
- D. **Illegal Drugs**—Any substance considered illegal or controlled by the Food and Drug Administration or prescription drugs not prescribed to the student taking the drugs.
- E. **Self-Referral**—Process of a student coming forward, voluntarily, seeking help for a problem with an illegal drug or alcohol. This is done before a violation of the Athletic

and Activities Code of Conduct has been verified by notifying staff or administration. Self-referral must occur prior to notification that the student has been selected for a random drug test.

- F. **Fall Deadline** – The fall deadline to sign up to be a participant in the random drug testing program will be prior to the first day of practice for fall sports.

Consent Form

To try out for or to participate in any school-sponsored extra-curricular activities, the student and his/her parent/guardian must read this policy and sign a consent form by which the student agrees that as a condition of participation in extra-curricular activities, he/she will consent to the drug testing program outlined in this procedure. Prior to the first day of practice or meeting for a specific activity, the student's parents or guardians must also sign this consent form. If the student signs up by the fall deadline, Blue Ridge CUSD #18 will pay for all initial drug tests requested by the district. If a student does not sign up by the fall deadline, the student will be required to be tested prior to participating in any practices or contests (games) and it will be the parent/guardian responsibility to pay for the student's initial drug test.

Financial Responsibility

1. Under this policy, the Blue Ridge CUSD #18 will pay for all initial drug tests requested by the district, if the student signs up by the fall deadline.
2. If a student decides to participate in an extracurricular activity after the fall deadline, he/she will be required to be tested after the signed consent form is returned and prior to participating in any practices or contests (games). The cost of this test shall be the financial responsibility of the student's parent/guardian.
3. Counseling and subsequent treatment by non-school agencies is the financial responsibility of the student's parent/guardian.
4. Students who have tested positive will need to have a clean drug test before they can resume participation in sports. The cost of this test shall be the financial responsibility of the student's parent/guardian.

Parent-Requested Participation

Parents of students under the age of 18 years who wish for their minor student to participate in the drug-testing program may voluntarily enroll the student in the district's program even if the student is not involved in extra-curricular activities. Students who are 18 years or older must consent to voluntarily enrollment in the district's program. The student will be placed in the drug pool and noted as a voluntary participant. If selected and the test is positive, the parent or the student, if the student is 18 years or older, will be notified of the positive test, but the student will not be penalized through this policy or the Discipline Policy of the Blue Ridge CUSD 18.

Noncompliance

If the extra-curricular participant, his/her parents or guardians refuse to sign the consent form, the student will not be permitted to be a member of the activity until such consent form is signed. Also, if the extra-curricular participant refuses to be tested or does not complete

the test as instructed, the extra-curricular participant will be considered in violation of this policy and it would be considered a violation of the Athletic and Activities Code of Conduct.

Random Selection of Extra-curricular Participants for Testing

At the beginning of each school year, the testing agency will be provided the name of each student that is participating in an extra-curricular activity. The selection of names will be computer generated and made by the testing agency. Participants will be eligible for random testing throughout the school year.

Confidentiality

The results of any test administered under the terms of this policy shall be kept confidential and disclosed only to the extracurricular participant, his/her parents or guardians, and school officials designated by the Superintendent. The test results will not be part of the extracurricular participant's permanent record, but will be kept in a secure file in the high school office. The results for testing, positive or negative, will be kept until the student graduates.

Under this drug testing program, no staff, coach, or sponsor shall divulge any information to anyone about a particular student or disposition of the student involved, other than by order of a court competent jurisdiction.

Self or Parent Referral

Student self-referral or parent-referral is a process designed to allow a student or parent to recognize a prohibited substance problem and bring it to the attention of staff or administration. Under the Athletic and Activities Code of Conduct, self or parent referral will count as the first offense under the Code of Conduct. However, the student must receive a substance assessment and/or counseling at the parent's/guardian's expense.

Once a student is selected for testing, a self or parent referral is no longer an option. Second or any subsequent self or parent referrals will be reviewed individually with regard to the basis for self or parent referral and the Athletic and Activities Code of Conduct. The Athletic/Activities Board will conduct this review.

Drug testing will be performed as a urine test. In cases where students have difficulty in obtaining a sample, saliva testing may be used. **Note: Saliva tests are not rapid tests and results are not obtained the same day.

Chain of Custody- Urine Testing

1. The testing organization will provide appropriately trained staff members, set up the collection environment, guarantee specimens, and supervise the chain-of-custody.
2. A District or testing organization staff member will escort students to the collection site. No student is allowed to go to his or her locker. The staff member should minimize classroom interruptions.
3. Before the testing organization staff member tests a student's urine he or she must sign any form that may be required by the testing laboratory. If a student chooses, he or she may notify the administrator that he/she is taking a prescription medication.
4. Students will be instructed to remove all coats and wash their hands in the presence of the staff member before entering the restroom stall. The stall door will be closed while the student provides a urine specimen. The staff member will wait outside the restroom stall. The testing organization staff member will obtain the urine specimen.

5. A sanitized kit containing a specimen container will be given to each student. The container will remain in the student's possession until the staff member performs the rapid test.
6. If the test is found negative, the student will know immediately. If the test is inconclusive, the specimen bottle will be sent to the testing agency for more testing.
7. The specimen container will be sealed and only the lab testing the specimen may break the seal.
8. If the seal is tampered with or broken after leaving the student's possession or prior to arriving at the lab, the specimen is invalid. The student will remain eligible for extracurricular activities subsequent to a retest.
9. After it is sealed, the specimen will be transported to the testing laboratory by testing organization personnel. The testing organization will report the results to the building principal or designee.

Chain of Custody- Saliva Testing

1. The testing organization will provide appropriately trained staff members, set up the collection environment, guarantee specimens, and supervise the chain-of-custody.
2. A District or testing organization staff member will escort students to the collection site. No student is allowed to go to his or her locker. The staff member should minimize classroom interruptions.
3. Before the testing organization staff member tests a student's saliva he or she must sign any form that may be required by the testing laboratory. If a student chooses, he or she may notify the administrator that he/she is taking a prescription medication.
4. The collector will confirm that the student has had nothing in their mouth for at least 10 minutes prior to the collection, including food, drink, gum, and tobacco products. If the student states he/she had something in his/her mouth within the last 10 minutes than a 10 minute waiting period will be required in the collector's presence.
5. The collector will hand the student an Oral Fluid Collection Kit or they may be asked to select their own.
6. The student will be instructed to remove collection device from package. Instruction will be given to place pad of device between the gum and cheek, rub it gently back and forth a couple of times, and then leave it in place for 5 minutes. The collector will make note of the time.
7. After allotted time has passed, the student will be instructed to open the vial and insert the collection device into the specimen vial, break off the excess wand (it is scored and breaks off easily), and secure cap. A tamper evident seal will be removed from the paper chain of custody and placed on top of the specimen vial and down the sides. The collector will date the seal and the student will initial the seal.
8. The student will be asked to sign his/her name, noting date of birth and a reachable phone number to certify that he/she provided their specimen to the collector, did not tamper with it in any manner, and that it was sealed with a tamper-evident seal in his/her presence and that the information provided on the form and label is correct.

9. The collector will then sign his/her name and complete the final step on the form. The specimen will be placed into a lab bag along with the lab copy of the paperwork and will be sealed.

Testing Negative

When using the Rapid Testing, the student will know immediately if the test is negative. The parents or guardians of the extra-curricular participant who tests negative will be notified by mail.

Inconclusive Test

If the test is inconclusive, it will be sent to the testing agency for further testing. The parents or guardians of the extra-curricular participant, whose tests are inconclusive, will be notified by a phone call and by mail. If the results from the inconclusive test come back as positive, the extra-curricular participant will be considered in violation of the Blue Ridge CUSD #18 Athletic and Activities Code of Conduct.

Testing Positive

The testing agency will notify the school, student, and parents/guardians within 24 to 48 hours. A letter of the results will also be sent home. A positive test will result in a violation of the Blue Ridge CUSD #18 Athletic and Activities Code of Conduct. The consequences of this violation are outlined in the Code of Conduct.

The participant shall be retested by the school district's testing organization, and must test negative, prior to returning to participation in extracurricular activities. The cost of this test shall be the financial responsibility of the student's parent/guardian. If this test is positive it will not count as a second infraction of the Blue Ridge CUSD #18 Athletic and Activities Code of Conduct.

Blue Ridge CUSD #18

Extra-Curricular Participant Eligibility Random Drug Testing—Student/Parent Consent Form

I have read the Blue Ridge Board of Education’s Extra-Curricular Drug Testing Policy for student participants and I understand the Board of Education’s policy and procedures and agree to follow said policy and procedures, including being subjected to drug testing, as a condition of participation in extra-curricular activities. I understand that if I disobey the rules I will be excluded from the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities as provided in the Board’s policy and procedures.

I accept the method of obtaining urine or saliva samples, testing and analyses of such specimens, and all other aspects of the program. I agree to cooperate in furnishing such urine or saliva samples, which may be required at random times. I also give the drug testing facility permission to discuss all test results with the proper Blue Ridge personnel. This consent is given pursuant to all State and Federal Privacy Statutes and is a waiver of rights to non-disclosure of such test records and results only to the extent such disclosure is authorized by the program. This consent is valid for the current school year.

I understand the costs for random drug tests will be paid for by the Blue Ridge CUSD #18 unless the student misses the fall deadline sign-up date. Students deciding to participate in an extracurricular activity after the fall deadline sign-up deadline will be required to be tested after the signed consent form is returned. The cost of this test shall be the financial responsibility of the student’s parent-guardian.

Student Participant (print name)

Student Participant Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

ADOPTED: September 16, 2020