



Arkadelphia Public School District Drug Testing Policy General Information & FAQ Sheet

THE BACKGROUND

The Arkadelphia School Board began researching the implementation of a Drug Testing Policy for students who participate in extra-curricular activities several years ago and the process culminated with the adoption of a policy in the Spring of 2012. The purpose of the policy is as follows:

- 1) to provide for the health and safety of students in all activity programs grades 6-12
- 2) to undermine effects of peer pressure by providing reasons for students to refuse illegal drugs
- 3) to encourage students who use drugs to participate in drug treatment programs

THE PROCESS

Parents and their student(s) who participate in extracurricular activities sign an authorization form, in essence "enrolling" the student in the drug testing program and becoming a part of the pool of those who can be tested. Parents of students who are not involved in extracurricular activities may enroll their student in the program by contacting their respective building principal at Goza Middle School and/or Arkadelphia High School.

Administrators will compile a list of all students at each school and send to the drug testing company. *First Choice Drug Testing and Occupational Health Services, Inc.*, of Little Rock will administer the APSD drug testing program.

When APSD Administration and *First Choice* determine a date that test will take place, *First Choice* will randomly select a number of students from the master list of Goza and AHS for testing.

A representative from *First Choice* will arrive at the school and the students chosen will be called to their respective offices.

The representative of *First Choice* will visit with the student and request a urine sample which can be provided in private. The location at Goza will be in a private bathroom in the office. The location at AHS will be in a private bathroom in the Nurse's Office located in the main office.

Upon completion of the sample, the student will return the sample to the *First Choice* representative. The sample will be given an instant reading and will be ruled as a "negative" or "non-negative" sample.

No instant readings will be deemed "positive" at the time of collection of the sample.

If a sample is deemed "negative", the process is over for the student.

If a sample is deemed "non-negative", the process continues as follows:

-- The sample deemed "non-negative" will be taken to the *First Choice* labs in Little Rock for a laboratory reading.

- A *First Choice* representative will contact the parents or legal guardians to find any prescriptions, etc., that may have triggered a “non-negative” reading.
- The company’s representative will attempt to contact the parent/guardians multiple times before contacting the school regarding the “non-negative” or subsequent positive.
- Should the company come to the conclusion that the sample be deemed a “positive”, the company will then contact the school administrator to notify. At that time, school district personnel and the parents and students will set up a meeting to discuss the positive finding.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will I be contacted when my student is chosen to provide a sample at school?

No, the school will not call you the morning of the drug test if your student is one who is chosen. The company that APSD is using has experience in drug testing in high schools and will make the experience comfortable for your child. The student will be given a note upon his or her completion of the test notifying you that he or she was a part of that random selection.

What about students who are on prescriptions?

In the event that a “non-negative” sample is found, the sample will be taken back to the *First Choice* labs for a laboratory reading. A representative of the company will contact you to ask about any prescriptions that your student is currently on. *School personnel will not be involved in the process of determining reasons for a “non-negative” reading. It lies solely with First Choice.* If a “non-negative” reading is due to a prescription that your student has been instructed to take by a doctor, the process is over.

Is alcohol included in the list of drugs for which students will be tested?

The policy as adopted by the APSD School Board does allow for alcohol testing, but it will be at the discretion of the administration.

If I am selected once, can I be selected again?

Due to the random nature of the testing program, all students on the master list are eligible to be selected each time a test is conducted. A student may go through four years and never be selected where their best friend may be selected multiple times over that same period. The program is a mandatory random drug testing program, meaning that it’s required for students to enroll in the program, but the actual selection of the students is truly random in nature as conducted by *First Choice*.

Can an entire group tested aside from the regularly-scheduled random testing?

At the option of the district, all students in activity programs may be drug tested during the school year. This determination will lie with the APSD administration. Also, a single test can be required by a principal from a student for reasonable suspicion.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet regarding the APSD Drug Testing Policy. Since it’s a new program, we understand that there are questions and hope that this document may help answer some of the unknowns. We look forward to working with you to help our students and continue to make the Arkadelphia Public School District a great place in which to educate tomorrow’s leaders.