

DRUG TESTING OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN NONACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Acknowledging that peer pressure has a significant impact on student life, and recognizing that observed and suspected use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs by Vermilion Local Schools students is a serious concern, a program of deterrence will be instituted as a proactive approach to a truly drug-free school environment. Since participation in nonacademic activities is a privilege, this program shall apply to all students, grades 8 through 12, who participate in school-sponsored athletics or other extracurricular activities for which a grade is not given, to eligible students who wish to obtain a parking permit, and to students who have earned special privileges, including but not limited to, early release or mid-day sign outs. The purpose of the drug testing program is:

- (1) To provide for the safety of all students;
- (2) To undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing legitimate reasons for students to refuse to use drugs, tobacco, or alcohol;
- (3) To encourage students who abuse drugs to participate in drug treatment programs; and
- (4) To prevent the impact drug and alcohol use has on the learning centers of the brain, allowing students to achieve their full academic potential while attending Vermilion Local Schools.

DRUG TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Prior to participation, any student who intends to participate in athletics, extracurricular activities, special privileges, or to obtain a parking permit and their parents will be required to provide written consent for random testing of prohibited substances. The Board of Education will pay the cost of testing, unless a split sample test is requested by parent and/or student.

The Board may contract with an external agency for the purpose of collecting and analyzing test samples. All samples will be collected under the supervision of medical personnel, and in a manner that protects the privacy of the students being tested. Any student who fails or refuses to produce a sample will be prohibited from participation in his/her designated activity until a sample is obtained and tested.

The results of the tests shall not become part of the students' permanent record. Test information shall only be released to persons designated in Board regulations and procedures. Test results will not be reported to law enforcement authorities, and test information will not be released to law enforcement or other parties except in response to a lawfully executed subpoena. In the latter case, parents will be notified within 48 hours of the receipt of the subpoena.

Except as stated in the Administrative Guidelines, violation of this drug testing policy will not result in suspension or expulsion. Nonetheless, the testing program does not affect current policies of the Board regarding student drug, tobacco, or alcohol possession or use, where reasonable suspicion is established by means other than testing as outlined in this policy. Additionally, any student who in any way aids or abets another student in violating this policy or the Administrative Guidelines for this policy will be subject to discipline.

The Superintendent shall establish procedures for implementation of this policy, and for addressing any violations.