

## WHO MADE THE DECISION TO IMPLEMENT RANDOM DRUG TESTING AT CENTRAL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

Various community people committed a significant amount of time researching and developing a plan to help educate students about making good healthy decisions. The committee consisted of:

- School Administrators
- School Board Members
- Teachers and Coaches
- Parents
- Local Law Enforcement
- Merrick Co. Diversion Officer and County Attorney
- MAPS Representative

### References

Office of National Drug Control Policy, Drug Testing in Schools, available at: [http://www.ncjrs.gov/ondcppubs/publications/pdf/drug\\_testing.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/ondcppubs/publications/pdf/drug_testing.pdf)  
Institute for Behavior and Health, Prevention, Not Punishment, Random Drug Testing, Available at: [www.preventionnotpunishment.org](http://www.preventionnotpunishment.org)

### Additional Resources:

**Drug Testing in Schools by Robert L. DuPont, M.D.**

**Sport Safe Testing Services, Inc.**  
[www.sportsafe.com](http://www.sportsafe.com)

<http://www.studentdrugtesting.org/>

**Drug Testing in Schools, Office of National Drug Control Policy**

[http://www.ncjrs.gov/ondcppubs/publications/pdf/drug\\_testing.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/ondcppubs/publications/pdf/drug_testing.pdf)

**Scottsbluff Public High School**  
**Chadron Public High School**

## WHAT ARE SCHOOLS SAYING THAT HAVE IMPLEMENTED RANDOM DRUG TESTING?

Durant School District, Oklahoma: Greg Howse, Safe School Director stated that school officials determined that the percentage of students who tested positive for marijuana has decreased from 20 percent to 11 percent in less than three years. He cites another success of the program in that a handful of students have thanked him for a program that gives them an excuse to refuse drugs. (Source: Jennifer Palmer and Wendy K. Kleinman, "Durant finds drug testing works," *The Oklahoman*, February 1, 2008)

Scottsbluff School District, Scottsbluff, Nebraska: Galen Nighswonger, high school principal, in a report on the first year of the district's random-testing program, stated, "The committee worked very hard to provide a tool which would have a positive effect on our students. The extremely low number of positive tests indicates the program is worth the cost." (Source: Mindy Burbach, "Random Student Drug Testing," Scottsbluff School District, Galen Nighswonger, First Year Report to the Board of Education, July 05, 2007)

## Random Drug Testing Program Q & A

CENTRAL CITY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HOME OF THE BISON



*"We find that testing students who participate in extracurricular activities is a reasonably effective means of addressing the School District's legitimate concerns in preventing, deterring, and detecting drug use."*

*Justice Clarence Thomas*

*U.S. Supreme Court*

*June 27, 2002*

*Educating and Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders*

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: THE BASICS OF RSDT

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## What is Random Student Drug Testing (RSDT)?

RSDT is a valuable part of drug prevention programs in middle and high schools (grades 7-12). Students are tested for the recent use of illegal drugs during normal school hours.

## Why test students?

There are 4 primary goals of student drug testing programs.

- To deter and prevent drug use
- To reinforce all other prevention efforts
- To identify students who need help getting and staying drug-free
- To prepare students for workplace drug testing

## What is the testing procedure?

While each school's drug testing policies and procedures are unique to its community, there are standard steps to follow in developing a RSDT program.

Each day that students are present in school, they are eligible for a random test even if they were tested the day before.

Students are randomly selected and are individually excused from class for a short period of time.

Students are brought to the nurse's office where they are instructed that they have been randomly selected to be tested on that day.

Students will provide a urine specimen in a cup in a private setting -- usually the nurse's bathroom or other school restroom.

The urine specimen is provided to the trained collector and then the specimen is sent to a certified lab to test the urine for various illegal drugs and alcohol. After completion of the test, the student returns to class.

The Third Party Administrator has been contracted to administer the collection of urine specimens and to test all of the urine samples for drugs and alcohol.

## Is Random Testing Legal?

In two landmark cases, the U.S. Supreme Court held that it is constitutional to perform random drug testing on students participating in athletics and competitive extracurricular activities:

### **Vernonia School District 47J v. Acton, 1995**

**Policy:** To require all athletes to take a urinalysis drug test in order to participate in sports activities

**Challenge:** Unconstitutional - Violation of children's right to privacy.

**Supreme Court Ruling:** Student drug testing for athletes was held as constitutional

**Decision:** 6 to 3

### **Board of Education of Independent School District No. 92 of Pottawatomie County, et al, Petitioners v. Lindsay Earls et al, 2002**

**Policy:** To require all middle and high school students in Tecumseh, Oklahoma to consent to urinalysis testing for drugs in order to take part in any extracurricular activities.

**Challenge:** Unconstitutional under the Fourth Amendment prohibition of unreasonable searches and seizures

**Supreme Court Ruling:** Held Constitutional.

**Decision:** 5 to 4

## Who determines the lab results?

Sport Safe Testing Service uses only Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) certified laboratories because of their experience in student drug testing and commitment in this evolving field.

## What substances will be tested?

Substances that students participating in extra-curricular activities may be randomly tested for: alcohol, amphetamines, cannabinoids, cocaine, opiates, synthetic opiates and PCP, and other substances, such as but not limited to steroids, barbiturates, and benzodiazepines without advance notice as part of tests authorized by the Board for safety purposes. Such tests will be coordinated with the Drug Program Coordinator.

## What happens if a student test positive?

A positive drug test result may indicate recent use of illegal drugs. Throughout the following procedures, confidentiality is kept among all parties involved.

- The positive test is verified by a Medical Review Officer (MRO). The MRO is a licensed physician who is responsible for reviewing laboratory drug test results and evaluating medical explanations for certain drug test results.
- Parents and School Administrators are contacted by the 3rd Party Administrator
- The student has an evaluation with a certified drug and alcohol counselor.
- No law enforcement is involved.
- Schools do not dismiss or suspend students from school for positive random drug tests. School policies may require a student who tests positive to leave certain non-academic activities for a period of time to ensure that the student has become drug-free. Schools commonly provide specific drug education programs for the student.
- Follow-up testing takes place to help the student remain drug-free. If on follow-up testing after the student is evaluated, the student continues to test positive, the student may be referred to treatment.

