

Random Drug Testing: Frequently Asked Questions

NBC will have the first draw of drug testing in the month of September. As this process begins, Mr. Allgood and I feel it is important to share as much information as possible. Prior to the first testing cycle, I prepared some information below to share with anyone interested in the random drug testing program.

Mrs. Petersen

- **Why is the district only testing students in extra-curricular activities?**

Students are required by law to attend school. Extra-curricular activities are a privilege and students are not required to participate; therefore, schools have a right to test only those participants in activities.

- **Why now?**

North Bend Central want to keep the students of our community safe and provide them with a legitimate reason to refuse drugs and alcohol when faced with peer pressure. NBC also wants to encourage students who are using drugs and alcohol to find a reason to abstain. The overall objective is to help students make good life decisions which will hopefully impact them long after graduating from NBC.

Prior to bringing this proposal to the Board of Education, we traveled to other schools to learn about their program, spoke over the phone with even more, and studied the policies of other schools via their school websites. A committee was formed comprised of students, parents and coaches that met in the second semester of 2018-19. That committee supported this endeavor prior to Board of Education consideration.

- **What other schools have drug testing?**

Many schools across Nebraska adopted drug testing within the past ten years. Some schools North Bend Central competes with that are currently utilizing drug-testing for extracurricular programs include the following: Wahoo, Cedar Bluffs, Stanton, Schuyler, Central City, Yutan, Boone Central, and Columbus Scotus.

- **What will happen if a student test positive?**

Students will be disciplined in the same manner as the consequences in the Code of Conduct found in the NBC Student Handbook. If a student self-reports and agrees to enroll and complete a drug/alcohol program, they will miss the next activity scheduled to participate in. NBC's purpose is not to make a public mockery of the student, rather, to educate them on the dangers of drugs/alcohol and assist in changing their path to a more positive lifestyle. Second offense, the punishment is increased to a much greater extent as referenced in the Code of Conduct.

- **Who will be doing the testing?**

NBC partnered with Sports Safe to provide all testing services. Sports Safe will provide NBC a random list of participants to test each testing session. Sports Safe will provide a nurse from outside the NBC staff to collect the samples and send to the laboratory. Sports Safe will first notify parents if a positive sample is collected. Quest Diagnostic or Medtox Laboratories may also be used if a parent wishes to contest the initial results of the testing.

- **How many students will test each session?**

The amount of students testing may vary throughout the school year, but roughly 12 high school students and 4 MS students

- **Do you have to be in activities to have your students in the random pool?**

No, parents may sign their student up whether they participate in extra-curricular activities or not.

- **Why not nicotine?**

To our knowledge, only one school district in Nebraska is testing for nicotine. Fairbury Public Schools began random drug testing a number of years ago and added nicotine to the list of tested substances this school year. Like us, many schools across Nebraska will be watching the impact of this endeavor as the school year progresses.

- **And, Finally:**

This is a program we believe will have a positive impact on our students and our school district for years to come. We do want your feedback. For additional information, please contact Mr. Allgood at the high school at 402.652.3268. Let's keep Building Success Together!