

The Douglas County School System will soon begin implementation of random drug testing of high school students, which was approved by the Board of Education this summer. Any students participating in privileged activities will be subject to random drug testing at any point during the school year. Privileged activities include but are not limited to any interscholastic activity, such as sports, any interscholastic extracurricular activity, such as band or clubs, and student parking on campus. In short, any student involved in any extracurricular activity will be subject to random drug testing.

The testing will be conducted at all four high schools on a random basis. An independent lab will conduct all tests in the presence of a school administrator. Students being tested will be selected using a computer generated random numbering system provided by the independent lab. A student's refusal to test will be treated as a positive test result. The tests will be able to measure the following drugs: marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamines, opiates and steroids. The test results will be instant. Any positive results will be forwarded to a Medical Review Officer who will determine through an interview with the parents or guardian if there is a valid medical reason for the drug to be in the student's system. The final result of the findings will be sent back to the school administrator.

Consequences of positive results range from a twenty day suspension to permanent suspension from activity or privilege.

1<sup>st</sup> offense – 20 day suspension from privilege

2<sup>nd</sup> offense – 1 year suspension from privilege

3<sup>rd</sup> offense - Permanent suspension from privilege

Before returning to the privileged activity, the student must submit to another drug test paid for by the student. Any positive results at the time of the follow up test will be considered the student's second positive drug test result. (A copy of the official policy can be found in the student handbook and on the Douglas County School System web site)

A safe and effective learning environment is paramount to the success of students. Drug use and abuse are detrimental to the physical, emotional and mental well being of students. Drug abuse seriously interferes with the academic and athletic performance of students and creates an unhealthy learning environment. The Random Drug Testing Program will have a positive effect on our schools, community and students by serving as a deterrent and offering assistance to students who have drug issues. An important element of the program is the availability of student/parent counseling for any student who may test positive and desire intervention. The Teen SHARP Program is an alcohol and drug education program for students and family members supported by the Douglas County School System. Students testing positive will have the opportunity to take advantage of Teen SHARP program.