

# Franklin County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in April</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Drug Testing of Student Athletes</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>6.3072</b>	Issued Date: <b>02/13/12</b>
		Rescinds: <b>6.3072</b>	Issued: <b>05/12/11</b>

## INTEGRITY OF PROCESS

The process of drug testing of student athletes is a serious endeavor. Whenever it is allowed by Tennessee State law, the Franklin County Board of Education prefers to be able to conduct random drug tests of athletes. It is important to maintain the integrity of this process. Therefore, any employee or volunteer found to jeopardize the integrity of the drug-testing process of student athletes shall be appropriately disciplined which could include termination. Anyone violating the confidentiality section of this policy that shares information with anyone other than the persons stated herein shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

All students in grades six (6) through twelve (12) desiring to participate in school-sponsored athletic events may be required to submit to drug test(s). This includes cheerleaders and all members of the athletic teams' support staff such as managers, bookkeepers, equipment keepers, etc.

**Any student who refuses to submit to the drug screening will not be permitted to participate in any athletic practice or competition for the duration of the particular sport season; furthermore, the noted consequences for a FIRST POSITIVE OFFENSE (as printed in this policy) shall be utilized. Any attempt to falsify the results of the drug test will be considered a 'Positive' result for any, and all students involved.**

## PURPOSES

1. To assure athletes, parents, and the community that the health and academic progress of each of its athletes is the primary goal of the school system;
2. To provide a testing program to identify student-athletes who are using illegal drugs before the students injure themselves or others, or become physiologically or psychologically dependent, and to provide a list of available counseling and/or treatment agencies upon parental request;
3. To protect students from the health-related risks inherent in the illegal use of alcohol and other drugs;
4. To protect those students, and others with whom they compete, from potential injury as a result of use of alcohol and other illegal drugs;
5. To remove the stigma of drug abuse from those athletes who are not users;
6. To reiterate to the entire school community that illegal use of drugs is not condoned by the school officials;
7. To emphasize to student-athletes additional incentives to say **NO** to alcohol and other drugs; and

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2 8. To employ testing to deter drug use, and where deterrence is unsuccessful, to terminate participa-  
3 tion in athletics.  
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### 5 **TESTING PROCEDURES**

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7 The director of schools will contact and select independent professional facilities (facility) to collect the  
8 required specimens and to conduct the necessary testing. Testing will be accomplished by the analysis  
9 of a specimen (at the point of approval of this policy, hair samples) obtained from the student-athlete.  
10 The independent professional facility will be held responsible for ensuring that every specimen being  
11 analyzed is identified with the appropriate student and that the integrity of the sample is maintained.  
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13 The head coach of the sport or an administrator of the school will be present during the testing process,  
14 with the preference being the presence of the head coach.  
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16 The test results will be sent only to the director of schools/designee. Only the director of schools/des-  
17 ignee, affected principal(s), and affected coach(es) shall have access to the test results. All test results  
18 will be maintained at the central office in a secure manner with controlled access.  
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### 20 **SPORTS SEASONS**

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22 The fall, winter and spring sport seasons will begin annually for each team with the initial date of  
23 practice as designated by the TSSAA. The sport season for each team shall continue until the team is  
24 eliminated through the last interscholastic contest played.  
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26 The above sports seasons may be redefined by the Drug Education and Screening committee, if deemed  
27 necessary. Other school-sponsored interscholastic sports may be added and included in the appropriate  
28 sport season when needed. Similarly, a sport may be deleted from the appropriate sport season, when  
29 needed.  
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31 If there is reasonable suspicion that a student athlete has used drugs during the sports season, that student  
32 will be required to submit to additional drug testing.  
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### 34 **SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION**

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36 A Drug Education and Screening Committee will be formulated to oversee this program and to make  
37 appropriate recommendations to the school board. The committee will consist of the director of schools/  
38 designee, the four secondary principals, and the athletic directors (rotating through the four schools),  
39 two (2) student-athlete parents (one from the North or South Middle and the other from either FCHS or  
40 Huntland - rotating annually from school to school), as well as two student-athletes (one male and one  
41 female selected from eleventh or twelfth graders by the school principal, rotating from each school.) If  
42 the parent is from Huntland, the students should be from FCHS and vice versa.  
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44 The Drug Education and Screening Committee will make periodic evaluations of the program. The  
45 evaluation will include the effectiveness of the procedural safeguards, testing procedures, availability of  
46 effective counseling/treatment programs, and the overall cost of the program.  
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**TEST RESULTS**

Results of the drug tests will be forwarded to the director of schools/designee and the parents will be notified concerning any test that is positive or any test that is considered positive. Positive results will be made available to parents.

**CONSEQUENCES OF POSITIVE RESULTS**

Once a student accumulates two (2) positive drug test results throughout grades 6-8, the student will be suspended from all further participation in athletics.

If the student wants to participate in high school athletics (grades 9-12) after being suspended from participation in grades 6-8 because of positive drug tests, the student and parent must request permission to participate from the school principal and applicable coach. Proof of negative result from a recent drug test must be provided as well as proof of completion of an applicable counseling and/or treatment program. If the student is allowed to participate in high school athletics, the student will again be subject to drug-testing and the repercussions thereof.

**FIRST POSITIVE OFFENSE**

1. The parent/guardian will be notified.
2. The principal, or principal's designee, will conference with the student and parent/guardian in regard to the consequences of any subsequent positive drug tests results. This conference might include the head coach and/or athletic director.
3. The student will complete an appropriate drug counseling or treatment program at the expense of the parent/guardian.
4. The student-athlete will be suspended a minimum of four (4) weeks from practice and competition until receiving a negative result after the four (4) weeks of a drug test conducted at a properly licensed facility at the parent's expense. The appropriate form must be requested at the Central Office and then presented at the licensed facility authorized the drug test. The student-athlete, while suspended under this policy, will not be allowed to wear any part of the official school uniform, travel with the team or squad, or assemble with the team at any game or function but must attend all practices to observe.

All positive results carry-over from year-to-year throughout the athlete's career at the middle school level and then start over for grades 9-12.

**SECOND POSITIVE OFFENSE**

For grades 6-8, the parent/guardian will be notified and the student will no longer be allowed to participate in athletics.

For students in grades 9-12:

1. The principal will conference with the student and parent/guardian in regard to the consequences of any subsequent positive drug tests results. This conference might include the head coach.

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3 2. The athlete will be suspended immediately from athletic practice and competition for **one cal-**  
4 **endar year.** To regain eligibility, the athlete must:  
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6 a. Complete the suspension period;  
7 b. Complete an appropriate drug counseling or treatment program at the expense of the parent/  
8 guardian.  
9 c. Furnish proof of negative results of a drug test conducted at a properly licensed facility at  
10 the parent's expense (after completing the above a and b); and  
11 d. All positive results carry-over from year-to-year throughout the athlete's career at the middle  
12 school level and then start over for grades 9-12. During the term of this suspension, the  
13 student-athlete shall have no association with the athletic team at any athletic event or activ-  
14 ity and shall not wear any apparel that is a part of the official team uniform.  
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### 16 **THIRD POSITIVE OFFENSE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL**

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18 The parent or guardian will be notified in writing that the student-athlete is suspended from participating  
19 in all athletics for the duration of the student's athletic career.  
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### 21 **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

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23 Circumstances at a school in regard to the random drug testing of a particular student-athlete may re-  
24 quire a change in the normal procedures. If, and when, this happens, a group consisting of the school  
25 principal and/or athletic director along with a representative from the testing agency shall determine the  
26 best action to take in regard to the situation.  
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### 28 **EDUCATION**

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30 Student-athletes and parents, if they wish to attend, will be oriented to the drug-testing program by the  
31 school principal, athletic director, or head coach. The session will include an opportunity for both the  
32 students and their parents to ask questions.  
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34 A copy of this policy will be made available upon request at the school level from the school principal  
35 and/or athletics director or coach as well as the central office of the Board.  
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