

CENTRAL FULTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: DRUG TESTING FOR
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES INCLUDING
ATHLETICS AND
STUDENT DRIVING
PRIVILEGES

ADOPTED: March 8, 2011

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose Pol. 227</p>	<p>227.1. DRUG TESTING FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ATHLETICS AND STUDENT DRIVING PRIVILEGES</p> <p>Central Fulton School District considers participation in athletic competition, extracurricular activities and driving to be a privilege and not a right. Students choosing to participate in athletics, extracurricular activities and driving are expected to accept the responsibilities which accompany the privilege. Among these responsibilities is the obligation to be drug, alcohol, and nicotine-free on a year-round basis, for safety reasons. Toward this end, students participating in Central Fulton School District athletics, extracurricular activities and driving are required to cooperate with and agree to test for drugs in accordance with this policy.</p> <p>District concerns relative to drug use with student athletes, extracurricular activity participants and drivers are justified. The district took into consideration data from the Pennsylvania Youth Survey in 2008 and 2010. It showed that the amount of drug use in the eighth grade in 2008 doubled with the same group of students in 2010, even though we had in use the Students Against Destructive Decisions program.</p> <p>As an athlete, extracurricular activity participant, or driver, a student is a representative of the school district and the community-at-large. The district recognizes athletes, extracurricular participants and student drivers as role models for younger students who frequently model their own conduct and lifestyle on that of the student athlete, extracurricular participants and student drivers. Thus, when a student chooses to participate in athletics, extracurricular activities and driving, s/he has also chosen to accept to be a role model, and with that choice comes the responsibility of living a drug, alcohol, and nicotine-free lifestyle. This reasoning is because of safety factors, and impaired facilities can be detrimental while participating in sports, extracurricular activities and driving.</p>
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227.1. DRUG TESTING FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ATHLETICS AND STUDENT DRIVING PRIVILEGES - Pg. 2

The district recognizes that drugs, alcohol, and nicotine have a serious and deleterious effect on motivation, memory, judgment, reaction time, coordination, and performance, and that continued or long-term usage of these substances can compound these problems and affect the user academically, medically, emotionally, as well as athletically. It is not the intention of this policy to penalize a student who is taking a medication prescribed by a licensed physician for treatment of a medical condition. It will be the students and/or parent/guardian to provide the district with this information before the testing process takes place.

With regard to school athletes and student drivers, the risk of immediate physical harm to the drug and alcohol user, or those with whom s/he is playing a sport or sharing the highway, is particularly high. Apart from psychological effects, which include impairment of judgment, slowing of reaction time, and a lessening of the perception of pain, the particular drugs screened by this policy pose substantial physical risks to athletes and drivers. Extracurricular participants, whether athletes or not, are student leaders and, as such, serve as role models for their peers and for young children as well. The use of drugs by these role models exacerbates the problem of illegal substances in our schools.

The district wants to provide a legitimate excuse for students to refuse to consume or use drugs, alcohol, or nicotine and to provide assistance for those who have a problem with the substances.

The purpose of this policy is:

1. To prevent student participants in extracurricular programs and students with driving privileges from using drugs.
2. To protect the health and safety of students.
3. To prevent accidents and injuries resulting from the use of alcohol or controlled substances.
4. To provide drug and alcohol users with assistance programs.

The purpose of this policy is not to punish students. It is not the intention of this policy for school district officials to report any positive test results to the law enforcement, or any officials outside the school district, without a subpoena (which the school district will not initiate), unless the student violates other policies, such as bringing prohibited substances or paraphernalia onto school property, etc.

227.1. DRUG TESTING FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING
ATHLETICS AND STUDENT DRIVING PRIVILEGES - Pg. 4

SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; a governmental agency that certifies toxicology laboratories that do drug testing following strict guidelines and constant quality assurance programs.

GC/MS - Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectroscopy; a scientific process to identify specific chemical compounds. A molecular fingerprint is obtained that identifies a chemical compound with 100% accuracy.

Quantitative levels - the measurement levels of some specific chemicals in the urine reported usually in nanograms per milliliter (ng/ml).

Extracurricular activity participant - any student in grades 6 to 12 participating in any nongraded, extracurricular activity.

Pool - consists of the names of all student athletes who are eligible to be randomly selected for drug testing.

First offense - a student athlete, extracurricular participant or driver will be charged with a first offense when a confirmation test result is positive for drug use.

Second offense - a student athlete, extracurricular participant or driver will be charged with a second offense when the confirmation test result is positive for drug use and that same student athlete, extracurricular participant or driver has already been charged with a first offense.

Chain-of-Custody form - a preprinted form provided by the district that records all contact with the provided specimen. The collector and donor initiate the form that follows with the specimen until the results are certified by the principal and/or his/her designee(s).

Medication - student athletes who have been or are taking prescription medication must provide verification for this fact before being tested. There are two (2) forms of acceptable verification: 1) a copy of the prescription; or 2) a doctor's authorization to take medication. Students who refuse to provide verification for prescription medicine and test positive for drugs will be subject to actions specified below for positive test results.

227.1. DRUG TESTING FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ATHLETICS AND STUDENT DRIVING PRIVILEGES - Pg. 5

<p>4. Guidelines</p>	<p><u>Informed Consent For Testing</u></p> <p>Prior to the beginning of the new school year and at the beginning of each sport and or extracurricular activity, student drivers, student athletes and students choosing to participate in extracurricular activities and parents/guardians/custodians will complete and sign the Consent to Perform Urinalysis For Drug Testing form, regardless of the student's age. No student shall receive a parking permit or participate in an extracurricular activity or sport until this form has been properly executed and is on file with the appropriate building principal or his/her designee.</p> <p><u>Random Testing</u></p> <p>Testing will be done without prior warning to the student. The dates of testing, the number of tests to be performed, and the identity of the students to be tested shall be determined by the district in its sole discretion, and may be performed at any time during the sports season, activity, or while the student is in possession of a parking permit. Testing may also occur as many times throughout the year as the district deems necessary.</p> <p>The district may test up to seventy-five percent (75%) of each season's athletes, extracurricular participants or student drivers randomly. Students selected for testing will be chosen at random by the administrative staff of the district. A pool of the student athletes, extracurricular participants and student drivers will be used for determination of testing candidates. Testing can only be done by the principal and/or designees of the principal.</p> <p><u>Scope</u></p> <p>This policy shall apply to students participating in extracurricular programs in the district's middle and high school, and those who have been issued a parking permit. Extracurricular participation shall include all interscholastic athletics and other activities in which students participate on a voluntary basis and for which credit is not awarded toward meeting graduation requirements. A list of the extracurricular activities shall be available from the principal.</p> <p>Random testing shall be conducted randomly throughout the school year for no more than seventy-five (75%) of the extracurricular and driving students. Selection shall be by a scientifically valid method. Each student shall have an equal chance to be selected with each random sampling. Random testing shall be unannounced and spread reasonably throughout the year. When the student is notified that s/he has been selected, the student shall proceed to the test site immediately.</p>
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227.1. DRUG TESTING FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING
ATHLETICS AND STUDENT DRIVING PRIVILEGES - Pg. 6

Sample Collection

Students who fail to supply an adequate sample when requested must remain in the collection area and will be allowed to drink up to forty (40) ounces of liquid within a two (2) hour period. Failure to supply an adequate sample within two (2) hours shall result in the student being viewed as refusing to test.

All costs of collection, testing, and interpretation shall be paid by the district.

The sample shall be marked with a number or bar code so as to preserve the student's anonymity outside of the district. The key to the number or bar code connecting the identity of the student to a particular sample shall be maintained by a member of the school administration and shall be kept confidential.

If the test is positive, the appropriately labeled urine samples shall be maintained so as to prevent contamination and shall be delivered through certified mail directly to a representative of the testing laboratory in a manner so as to preclude any possibility of contamination of the samples.

All specimens must be initialed by school officials. Testing shall take place within forty-eight (48) to seventy-two (72) hours of the sample collection time by the independent laboratory. The laboratory may perform its testing using either a highly accurate immunoassay technique or a Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectroscopy (GS/MS) confirmatory test.

Once the results of the second test testing are prepared by the laboratory, the results shall be sent directly to the principal or a designee. If the second test is negative, no further action is taken. If the second test is positive, the school's medical staff will conduct an investigation into the medication taken by the student tested positive. If the medical staff confirms the second test, the principal or his/her designee and the Athletic Director will hold a parent/guardian conference to make the parent/guardian aware of the test results.

The student and the parents/guardians shall be given an opportunity to respond to the test results, but unless some objective evidence proves that the test results were wrong (or were due to properly prescribed and administered prescription medication), then sanctions will apply. Confidentiality shall be maintained with regard to any positive test results. Furthermore, if a school official, teacher, coach, or other representative of the school district personally sees a student athlete in possession of drugs or using illegal drugs, these observations shall provide a basis for the district to find that this policy has been violated, and sanctions will apply.

227.1. DRUG TESTING FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING
ATHLETICS AND STUDENT DRIVING PRIVILEGES - Pg. 7

Refusal To Take Drug Test

If any student participating in athletics/extracurricular activities/driver, when selected, refuses to take the drug test, the district will follow the same procedures that would ensue had the student taken the drug test and tested positive for drug use.

Tampering With The Drug Test

If a drug test has been tampered with or has been purposely contaminated in any form by a student being tested, the result shall be determined a positive.

Collection Process

1. Student will arrive with an acceptable identification (I.D.) with a photo license, etc. If they cannot provide a photo I.D., a school official will identify the client.
2. Student is asked to wash his/her hands with soap and water and dry them.
3. No purses, bags, or containers may be taken into the collection area with the student. The student is never out of vision of the collector with the chain of custody, although the student actually provides the sample in private (restroom).
4. The collector prepares the urine bottle by placing the card in the lid.
5. When the specimen is collected, the attendant will check to make certain that the specimen has the temperature and appearance of a freshly collected urine specimen. The attendant will tightly secure the container lid and seal the bottle with a security seal while simultaneously saying to the client "I am sealing your specimen with your I.D. on the specimen. Is this the correct I.D.?" (The client should answer "yes".)
6. The student will then initial the lid in the presence of the collector and the witness will also indicate the date and time on the specimen and initial the specimen.
7. The specimen will be read on the spot by the principal and/or designees.
8. If the test shows a positive result, the Chain-of-Evidence form will be filled out and a list of all medications or over-the-counter drugs for the past thirty (30) days will be noted. The student will be asked whether or not they have eaten any poppy seeds in the past seven (7) days. The top copy of the Chain-of-Evidence form, which includes the name, will be kept by a school official.

227.1. DRUG TESTING FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ATHLETICS AND STUDENT DRIVING PRIVILEGES - Pg. 8

9. Results will be sent to the designated representative of the school.

Disclosure Of Positive Test Results

Positive test results will be disclosed only to the student athlete, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), and all relevant school personnel. It is the responsibility of the school personnel to protect the confidentiality of the test results.

Confidentiality

All correspondences, reports, conferences, and meetings among school personnel and with student athletes and their parent(s)/guardian(s) will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

Consequences

Sanctions are intended to apply to participation in P.I.A.A. sanctioned interscholastic sports and to a Central Fulton School District sponsored or sanctioned sports activity, extracurricular activities and driving. If a student's test indicates that this policy has been violated, or if a student has been observed in possession of drugs or using drugs, or if a student refuses to take a test upon request, then the following sanctions shall apply:

First Offense –

1. The student shall be suspended from his/her team, extracurricular activity, or driving privilege for the balance of a season, including playoffs or extracurricular activity for the particular sport or activity wherein a positive test result is discovered, or thirty (30) calendar days (whichever amount of time is greater).
2. Parents/Guardians shall be immediately contacted by the administration.
3. The student shall be referred to district personnel for counseling:
 - a. Student assistance program (SAP).
 - b. School nurse.
 - c. Guidance counselor.
 - d. School psychologist.

227.1. DRUG TESTING FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ATHLETICS AND STUDENT DRIVING PRIVILEGES - Pg. 9

	<p>e. Other appropriately trained staff members selected by the principal.</p> <p>4. Require the student, under parental supervision, to undergo D & A counseling with an outside professional agency approved by the district, without expense to the district:</p> <p>a. Appropriate local or state rehabilitation centers.</p> <p>b. Other agencies identified by the Fulton County Drug and Alcohol Commission.</p> <p>5. Confirmation of such enrollment shall be submitted within a prescribed time (two (2) weeks from the date of a positive test) to the high school administration. Failure to comply within the prescribed time will be cause for permanent suspension from the athletic program, extracurricular activity or driving.</p> <p>6. The student is required to comply with all recommendations of the counselor to continue athletic participation, extracurricular participation, or driving privileges.</p> <p>7. The student will be tested prior to resuming athletic competition (practices and/or games), extracurricular activities, or driving.</p> <p>8. The student must have a negative test or show a significant reduction in the level of the drug in the urine as determined by the drug testing service to continue athletic competition, extracurricular or driving privileges.</p> <p><i>Second Offense –</i></p> <p>1. All of the above.</p> <p>2. The student shall be prohibited from participating in interscholastic athletics, extracurricular activities or driving for the duration of one (1) calendar year from the date of the confirmed positive test.</p> <p>Nothing in this policy shall curtail or render ineffective any other existing policy of this district with regard to the possession or use of illegal substances or paraphernalia or those policies dealing with expected behavior of students on school property or while engaged in school-sanctioned activities.</p>
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227.1. DRUG TESTING FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING
ATHLETICS AND STUDENT DRIVING PRIVILEGES - Pg. 10

Reinstatement To Student Athletics, Extracurricular Or Driving

The student athlete/participant will be required to take a drug test, at parent/guardian expense, and return a negative reading before reinstatement to any athletic competition, extracurricular activity or driving to/from school will occur.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510

Board Policy – 227