

5531 RANDOM ALCOHOL AND DRUG-TESTING POLICY

Statement of Need

This policy is based on the following facts:

Medical studies have established that drug use affects motor skills, learning, memory retention, reasoning ability and coordination.

Except in extreme cases, drug use is difficult for laymen, or even physicians, to detect by casual observation.

No safe level of drug use has been established. Any measurable amount of a mind-altering drug or alcohol in a person's body can cause some degree of impairment, even if that impairment is not readily apparent to the layman.

Community Task Force

The District convened a Task Force which, in part, conducted surveys, solicited public input from the community and parents and obtained law enforcement data. This information was obtained to gain an understanding of the current drug use among students. The District's Task Force found there was enough information of substance use/abuse by students that additional attention is warranted.

State and National Trends

The District's results are consistent with other national and state-wide data. Both New Jersey and the United States as a whole continue to confront both a drug and alcohol problem of significant magnitude in its public schools. According to a recent national survey sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, although teen drug-use has decreased in recent years it still affects a significant portion of students. Marijuana use among tenth graders remains at thirty percent, with nearly a third of students in that grade report having used the drug. See Press Release, National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2002 Monitoring the Future Survey Shows Decrease in use of Marijuana, Club Drugs, Cigarettes, and Tobacco, at 2 (Dec. 16, 2002). In New Jersey, data released in 1999 by then-Attorney General John J. Farmer, Jr., shows "virtually no change in young people's use of alcohol, marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, amphetamines and heroin" between 1995 and 1998. See Press Release, New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, State Releases Survey of Substance Abuse Among High School Students, pg. 1 (Dec. 30, 1999). According to the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, "about four in every five students (78.5%) report the use of alcohol at some time in their lives" that "36.9% (report using marijuana) in the past year(,)" and the most widely used illicit drugs, other than marijuana, are hallucinogens and amphetamines." New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Drug and Alcohol Use Among New Jersey High School Students 1999, pgs. 17-18. The State's survey moreover reveals that nearly sixty percent of all responding students indicated that parental disapproval would prevent them from using drugs in the first instance.

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility for the children entrusted to its care. The Board of Education wishes to deter drug and alcohol use and does not wish to wait for a substantial portion of its students to begin using drugs or alcohol before instituting this Policy. Accordingly, this Policy is a rational attempt by the Board of Education and approving parents to address a documented and substantiated problem of illegal drug and alcohol use affecting a sizeable portion of its student

population.

Therefore, it is the policy of The North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District Board of Education to authorize the Administration to implement a random alcohol and drug testing program for all students engaged in any athletic programs or extra-curricular activities not required by the Board of Education for graduation or who possess a parking permit for on-campus parking (the "Program"). The consent of the pupil and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for random drug testing is required for the student to participate in extracurricular activities, athletic programs and/or to possess a school parking permit. Further, any parent or guardian may elect to have their student participate in the program on a voluntary basis by completing the consent form. Eligibility shall apply to the entire academic school year. Administrative Regulations (R5531) cover the procedures for conducting these tests and appropriate recourse regarding the results. Design of the program should be consistent with the Board of Education's objectives, which are as follows:

1. Promote health and safety;
2. Deter drug use, thereby countering peer pressure which may encourage indulgence;
3. Encourage students who use alcohol and drugs to participate in rehabilitative programs; and
4. Encourage and invite voluntary testing.

Primary emphasis in administering this Program should be directed toward deterrence and remediation rather than punishment of students who test positive for illegal drugs or their metabolites. Sanctions and corrective action should be designed accordingly. This Policy and its implementing Regulations shall be distributed annually, at the beginning of the school year, to all school employees, pupils and parents(s) or legal guardians(s).

This Policy is not intended to be disciplinary or punitive in nature. No student shall be expelled or suspended from the curricular program as a sole result of any verified positive test conducted by the school under the random drug testing program.

This policy will apply to all North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District students in grades 9-12 who participate in any athletics, extra-curricular activities not required by the Board of Education for graduation or who possess a parking permit for on-campus parking.

Definitions:

Drugs - All controlled substances designated and prohibited as stated in North Hunterdon-Voorhees Substance Abuse Policy #5530 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2. For the purpose of this policy, a drug includes, but is not limited to, phencyclidine (PCP), marijuana (THC), cocaine, methamphetamine, opiates, alcohol and anabolic steroids or any other substance which is defined as a controlled substance by New Jersey law or their metabolites.

Alcoholic Beverages - Includes beer, wine, distilled liquors and any other liquid containing alcohol.

Medications - All medications, including over the counter drugs must be properly registered with the school nurse. N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.4

Activities - Any extra-curricular activities not required by the Board of Education for graduation.

Adopted: January, 2007