

SOUTHERN FULTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: STUDENT DRUG TESTING

ADOPTED: July 17, 2001

REVISED: December 3, 2002

<p>1. Purpose Pol. 227</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">227.2. STUDENT DRUG TESTING</p> <p>Southern Fulton School District considers participation in athletic competition to be a privilege and not a right. Students choosing to participate in athletics 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 Southern Fulton School District athletics are required to cooperate with and agree to test for drugs in accordance with this policy [Supreme Court Ruling Acton vs. Veronia]. District concerns relative to drug use with student athletes is justified. SAP (Student Assistance Program) records indicate that the school referred _____ student athletes during the 2000/2001 school year alone. The student athlete referrals occurred because those _____ student athletes displayed symptoms resembling symptoms prevalent with drug use.</p> <p>As an athlete, a student is a representative of the school district and the community-at-large. The district recognizes athletes as role models for younger students who frequently model their own conduct and lifestyle on that of the student athlete. Thus, when a student chooses to participate in athletics, 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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The district recognizes that drugs, alcohol, and nicotine have a serious and deleterious effect on motivation, memory, judgement, 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. 2. 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.
--------------------------------	---

<p>2. Definitions</p>	<p>3. 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) or any other officials outside the school district, unless the student violates other policies, such as bringing prohibited substances or paraphernalia onto school property, etc.</p> <p>Drug – Any substance considered illegal or controlled by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the United States Government, the Food and Drug Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), or any controlled substance which has as one of its effects, the enhancement of athletic performance, including but not limited to steroids. For purposes of this policy, the definition includes the use of tobacco products, which are prohibited by the school district for all student athletes. This policy includes beer, wine, and/or liquor and any substance containing ethyl alcohol to the extent that it can impair judgement or function if taken in sufficient quantities.</p> <p>Student Athlete – Any student choosing to participate on an athletic team or cheerleading squad (including managers, student trainers, student aides, etc.) under the controlled jurisdiction of the district.</p> <p>Sports Season – Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons begin on the first day of practice allowed by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association and continue through the last day of the final competition date. These seasons will also be used for athletics and cheerleading where applicable.</p> <p>Vendor – The medical office or company selected by the Board of Education to carry out the policy and procedure.</p> <p>High School Principal/Superintendent – The individual hired by the Board or district to oversee all athletic programs of the school or district.</p> <p>Medical Review Officer (MRO) – A licensed physician trained and certified in the process and interpretation of drug testing results.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 one hundred percent (100%) accuracy.</p>
-----------------------	---

<p>3. Guidelines</p>	<p>Quantitative Levels – The measurement levels of some specific chemicals in the urine reported usually in nanograms per milliliter (ng/ml).</p> <p>Pool – Consists of the names of all student athletes who are eligible to be randomly selected for drug testing.</p> <p>Confirmation Test – Occurs when a second test is conducted on the original sample to confirm or negate a positive drug test result.</p> <p>First Offense – A student athlete will be charged with a first offense when a confirmation test result is positive for drug use.</p> <p>Second Offense – A student athlete will be charged with a second offense when the confirmation test result is positive for drug use and that same student athlete has already been charged with a first offense.</p> <p>Chain-of-Custody Form – A preprinted form provided by the testing laboratory 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 testing scientist and forwarded to the MRO for final certification.</p> <p>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”.</p> <p><u>Reasonable Suspicion Testing</u></p> <p>When district officials, including but not limited to administrative and/or professional employees, observe a student who reasonably appears to be under the influence of illegal drugs and/or controlled substances, or unfit for school or extracurricular activities, or who poses a potential health and safety threat to him/herself or other students because of drug and/or other substance abuse, they shall notify the Superintendent or Building Supervisor and/or his/her designee, who will observe the student before requiring him/her to be tested for drug and/or other controlled substances. The reasonable appearance of being under the influence of drugs, controlled substances or of other substance abuse shall be determined by personal observations of factors, including, but not limited to the appearance, behavior, speech or body odor, etc. of the student by district officials.</p>
----------------------	--

A urine specimen must be provided and/or a breath test undertaken by the student in all reasonable suspicion testing events.

Random Testing

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. This means that the random testing may occur before, during, or after the sports season. Testing may also occur as many times throughout the year, as the district deems necessary.

The district may test up to seventy-five percent (75%) of each season's athletes randomly. Students selected for testing will be chosen at random by the administrative staff of the district. A pool of the student athletes will be used for determination of testing candidates. Testing can only be done by district officials or the testing agency contracted by the district.

Sample Collection

Any eligible student athlete/cheerleader selected randomly for urine drug testing who is not in school on the day of testing will be tested at the next available testing time. Students who fail to supply an adequate sample when requested must remain in the collection area and will be allowed to drink up to eight (8) ounces of liquid every one-half (1/2) hour up to a total of two and one-half (2 1/2) hours. Failure to supply an adequate sample within two and one-half (2 1/2) hours may result in the student being viewed as refusing to test. Parents/guardians may arrange for special collections at a vendor collection site with prior approval of the Building Principal or Superintendent.

Collection Process

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.

The appropriately labeled urine samples shall be maintained so as to prevent contamination and shall be delivered directly into the possession of a representative of the testing laboratory in a manner so as to preclude any possibility of contamination of the samples.

All specimens will be tested initially by school officials. Testing shall take place within forty-eight (48) hours of the sample collection time. If the sample tests positive, the sample will be sent to laboratory for a second test to confirm the results. The second test is to be administered within forty-eight (48) hours after the initial test results have been obtained, and it is administered utilizing the original sample. 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 are prepared by the laboratory, the results shall be sent directly to a Medical Review Officer (a licensed physician to review and analyze the test results). 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 conference to make the parent aware of the test results. Any negative test results shall result in a congratulatory letter being sent to the student and parents/guardians.

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 drugs, these observations shall provide a valid basis for the district to find that this policy has been violated, and sanctions will apply.

Refusal to take the drug test – If an athlete, 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 to be positive.

Consent

Prior to any student being permitted to practice or participate in an athletic event, both the student and his/her parent or guardian must sign a consent form agreeing for the student to participate in drug testing, at any time during the athletic year as defined in this policy. If any student or parent/guardian declines to sign the form, then the student shall not be permitted to participate in the sport. If a student moves

into the district after the first practice begins and wishes to participate in a sport, the student shall be required to provide a properly executed consent before being allowed to practice or participate.

1. Patient or client will arrive with an acceptable identification (ID), with a photo license or etc. If they cannot provide a photo ID, 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.
4. 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 patient or client 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. The student is never out of vision of the collector with the chain of custody.
5. The collector prepares the urine bottle by placing the temperature sticker on the side of the bottle.
6. The collector adds a bluing agent to the water in the urinal or toilet.
7. 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 ID on the specimen. Is this the correct ID?" (The client should answer yes).
8. The client will then initial the seal in the presence of the collector and the witness will also indicate the date and time on the specimen and initial the specimen.
9. The client will then sign the Chain of Evidence form.

10. The specimen and Chain of Evidence form will then be put in a Biohazard bag and then placed in a locked transport container. It will then go directly to the lab in a sealed, locked container, which will then be opened by the technologist who performs the test. The technologist will document on the Chain of Evidence form the receipt date and time when the specimen arrives in the lab with his/her initials.

11. All specimens will be stored in a locked freezer.

12. 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) and/or 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) and/or guardian(s), will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

Sanctions are intended to apply to participation in P.I.A.A. sanctioned interscholastic sports and to a Southern Fulton School District sponsored or sanctioned sports activity. 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 for the balance of the season, including playoffs, for the particular sport wherein a positive test result is discovered.
2. Parents or 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.

	<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 weeks from the date of a positive test) to the high school administration. Failure to comply within the prescribed time will be cause for suspension from the athletic program.</p> <p>6. The student is required to comply with all recommendations of the counselor to continue athletic participation.</p> <p>7. The student will be tested prior to resuming athletic competition (practices and/or games).</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.</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 for the duration of the year.</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> <p><i>Reinstatement to student athletics –</i> The student athlete will be required to take a drug test, at parent/guardian expense, and return a negative reading before reinstatement to any athletic competition will occur.</p>
--	--