

USD 320 Random Drug Screening Program Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q. What is the purpose of student drug screening?

A: The purpose of the program is to deter drug use and to assist parents and students when needed:

- To undermine the effects of peer pressure, providing a legitimate reason for students to “just say no” and refuse to use illegal drugs
- To provide for the safety of all students
- To promote achievement of each student’s full academic potential by preventing the impact drug use has on the learning centers of the brain.
- To stimulate positive conversation both at school and at home about drug use and positive choices
- To support and encourage students using drugs to participate in drug assessment programs and treatment

Q. How does drug screening help students?

A. The program serves as a deterrent to the use of illegal drugs and provides students with a highly effective reason to resist peer pressure and refuse invitations to use drugs.

Q. Who will be screened?

A. Students who participate in KSHSAA sponsored activities and athletics and students who OPT-IN to the random screening pool

Q. Will participation in the random drug screening program be required?

A. Yes, all students wishing to participate in KSHSAA activities and events will be required to have a signed opt-in consent form on file before a student is allowed to participate.

Q. What are current USD 320 KSHSAA activities?

A. Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Softball, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball, Wrestling, Debate, KAY, Band, Choir, Scholars Bowl, Forensics, Cheer and Dance, and Student Council.

Q. Can a student not involved in KSHSAA activities OPT-IN to the Random Drug Screening Program?

A. Yes. Any USD 320 parent/guardian/custodian may also request to have their student(s) **OPT-IN** to the random pool of student rosters.

Q. Is law enforcement involved in a positive screen result?

A. No. There will be no communication to any law enforcement agency. Random screening is a partnership between the school and the family with the hope of helping the student.

Q. Are there any academic consequences for students who have a positive screen result?

A. No. The random drug screening program is academically non-punitive. This policy is designed to create a safe, drug free environment for students and to assist them in getting help when

needed.

Q. Are drug screen results kept in a student's academic file?

A. No. Drug screening records will be kept separate from all academic records. Files are destroyed at the end of the student's high school career.

Q. How are students selected for screening?

A The screening pool is selected randomly by the vendor, not Wamego High School or Wamego Middle school staff or administration. Student confidentiality is a cornerstone of the program and student information including identity is not shared with the lab. Students are assigned a number by the school and selected students / samples are identified by the number only.

Q. How often will students be screened?

A Student's numbers will be randomly selected at intervals determined by administration.

Q. What are the screening standards?

A Screening will be conducted by scientific means using approved practices and procedures established by the drug-screening vendor.

Q. What are the credentials of the vendor laboratory?

A The vendor offers the most accurate and reliable drug screen available to help companies, schools

and parents create a drug free environment. The vendor has a successful history of helping thousands of corporations and schools maintain a drug-free environment using their state-of-the-art proprietary screening technology. They have been working with schools for 17 years.

Q. Why hair screening vs. urine screening?

A. There are a number of reasons including:

- Hair sampling is the least personally invasive method of screening
- Hair sampling provides the most accurate results and cannot be defeated
- Hair sampling provides the longest lookback window for usage activity (90 days)

Q. What if it is not possible to screen hair in a particular situation.

A. Hair can be sampled from head, arm, armpit, leg. In the event this was not possible, an alternative screening method will be used.

Q. Can a parent or guardian be present at screening?

A. Of course, if a student requests a parent or guardian to be with them after being drawn, sampling will be delayed up to 48 hours to provide reasonable opportunity for parent to join student for sampling procedure.

Q. What other area schools are currently drug screening?

A. Numerous Kansas schools are running a program including: Junction City, Topeka Hayden, Topeka Seaman, Shawnee Mission, Clay Center, Inman, Central Heights, Girard, Marmaton Valley, Belle Plaine, Campus-Haysville, Fredonia, Osage City, El Dorado, Pittsburg, Marion,

North Lyon County, Kapaun Mt Carmel, Riverton, Mulvane, Maize, Maize South, Oswego and many others.

Q. What if students are taking prescription medications? Will they show up on the screen results?

A Certain medications will show up in the screen results. The vendor will determine if prescription medications in the amount prescribed could result in a positive screen result. If the vendor makes the determination that the prescribed medications were taken in the proper amount, the result will be a negative screen. Any positive results for prescription medication will be made negative after verification of the prescription.

Q. Will over-the-counter medications cause a positive result?

A Over-the-counter (OTC) medications, if taken as instructed on the packaging, should not cause a positive screen result. A positive screen result *is possible* if OTC medications are misused.

Q. Is the same procedure/consequences followed for students in possession or under the influence of drugs?

A. No. The Random Drug Screening Policy should be considered separate from the school discipline actions(s). Possession or consumption of drugs on campus or at any school-related program/activity will result in disciplinary actions. Disciplinary action will be handled by school administration. School consequences resulting from hearings will take precedence over Activities Code of Conduct, sponsor, coach, or team rules.

Q. What costs are the school covering in this policy?

A. The program covers costs of random drug screenings and the costs of mandatory follow-up screening for a positive screen. The program also covers the cost of the initial consultation for the student and family with the contracted certified addiction counselor.

Q. What happens if a student refuses to take the screen?

A. Refusal to take the screen will be considered a positive screen result and treated accordingly.

Q. What is the appeal process?

A If the parent/ guardian/ custodian or student wishes to rescreen the results, a second screen may be conducted on the same hair specimen at their own expense. It is important to note that any positive result has had two completely separate screens performed - an immunoassay screen and a mass spectrometry confirmation screen. Additionally, environmental contamination is a non-issue because the facility utilizes the most extensive wash procedure in the industry. Numerous studies demonstrate the effectiveness of the wash procedure used. The Screening Facility uses a liquefying method to process hair samples.