



**Random Student Screening
January, 2018**

Discussion Timeline (tentative)

January 22 - BOE Meeting Supt announces the intent to explore random drug testing policy - NO POLICY HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE BOE

January 25 - Presentation at the Municipal Alliance meeting

February - Board of Education - Presentation on why and how it works

March (early) Town Hall Mtg - Presentation on why and how it works

April - Policy introduced to the BOE

May - Second Town Hall Mtg - finalized policy

May - Policy second reading

Two Foundational Beliefs:

The emphasis behind a program like this is to deter and provide early intervention and supports, versus punish.

If we can delay the onset of drug use or diminish the frequency of use, we reduce the risk of addiction for that child.

What are we already doing to protect our kids?

We have many programs to support our students, these are some of the highlights:

- Proactive deterrent programs beginning in 5th grade and continuing through CHS including:
 - Numerous prevention clubs such as PANDA, TATU, LEAD
 - Assemblies and school wide events such as guest speakers & Red Ribbon Week
 - Individual and group counseling
 - Health class lessons
- Community programming with the well established Municipal Alliance
- Expanded extra and co-curricular activities to connect more students to our schools
- Annual Climate survey distributed to all students, staff and parents
- Search Institute survey to determine student at-risk behaviors
- Regular review of anecdotal and discipline data related to student use of illegal drugs

Random vs. Under Suspicion Testing

Under Suspicion

(current policy)

Punitive and Reactive

- Includes all students
- 1 to 2 week school suspension
- 30-day removal from activities
- Possible notification of law enforcement
- Included in discipline file

Random

Deterrent and Proactive

- No suspension from school
- May be removed from activities
- Cannot be shared with law enforcement - Results are confidential
- Cannot be included in any discipline files

Who Would Be Tested?

- Most existing policies state: 20% of eligible students are tested over a given school year.

Who is “eligible”?

- Athletes
- Students involved in extra and co curricular activities
- Students who are granted parking permits
- Students opt in to be part of the program
- At CHS, over 90% of our students fall under the above eligibility

Why not all students?

New Jersey Administrative Code (the laws that govern schools) specifically outlines how and who can be tested.

Which drugs can be tested for?

This will be decided on by Board when the policy is developed.

Various testing methods normally test for a "panel" of 5 to 10 drugs. Typical tests include:

- marijuana
- cocaine
- opioids (including OxyContin® and Vicodin®)
- amphetamines
- 3, 4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA),
- gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB),
- appearance - and performance-enhancing drugs (steroids),
- synthetic cannabinoids, commonly known as Spice and K2.

Including alcohol will be determined.

Why Test Teenagers?

Teens' brains and bodies are still developing, and this makes them especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of drug use. Most teens do not use illicit drugs, but for those who do, it can lead to a wide range of adverse effects on their behavior and health.

Short term: Even a single use of an intoxicating drug can affect a person's judgment and decision-making, resulting in accidents, poor performance in school or sports activities, unplanned risky behavior, and [overdose](#).

Long term: Repeated drug use can lead to serious problems, such as poor academic outcomes, mood changes (depending on the drug: depression, anxiety, paranoia, psychosis), long-term adverse effects and social or family problems caused or worsened by drugs.

It is much wiser to build a child who is mentally, physically and socially healthy, than to repair an adult.

Where are we in the process?

I am recommending the Board of Education review and discuss a policy this spring.

No policy has been developed, discussed, or approved at this time.

Specific details will be determined during the policy development; however, we know that any school district that implements random testing must adhere to at least the following:

- Any disciplinary action taken against a student who tests positive for drug use or who refuses to consent to testing shall be limited to the student's suspension or prohibition from participation in the eligible activity (sports, clubs, parking, etc.).
- Students must be provided a support system
- No academic suspensions can occur
- No notification of law enforcement
- No permanent record
- No information disclosed to teachers, colleges or employers