



## Student Drug Testing FAQ

### **Will students be tested on the weekend or during the summer?**

No. Random student drug testing for eligible 7-12 students will only take place during the school year on a school day.

### **How will parents be notified if their child is tested?**

Students who are tested will receive a parent notification card to bring home to give to their parent/guardian. If the parent has any questions regarding the testing process, he/she may call Mr. Verhoff at 659-4301.

### **The policy states that the drug testing includes a rapid screen on-site and then a more comprehensive analysis if the results of the sample are non-negative on the rapid screen. Will my child be suspended from his/her extra-curricular activity if he/she has a positive rapid screen?**

No. Any samples which result as non-negative on a rapid screen test will be sent out with a chain of custody to a certified laboratory for confirmation. A Certified Medical Review Officer will verify the positive test. Until a positive test is confirmed by the Certified Medical Review Officer, the student will be able to participate in his/her respective extra-curricular activity.

### **On the Informed Consent Agreement, it states "I authorize the officers, employees, and agents of the District to communicate and share information with each other regarding my child's drug test results both orally and in writing." Which employees of Columbus Grove Schools will have access to information regarding student drug testing?**

There are only three employees who have access to student information regarding student drug testing, the high school principal, athletic director, and superintendent. All three individuals are required to sign a confidentiality agreement regarding any information they acquire through the student drug testing process.

### **What if my child tests positive for a medication he/she is currently taking?**

Before the testing process begins, the student will be asked if he/she is currently taking any medication. At that time, the student should divulge any sort of medication he/she is currently taking, both prescriptive and non-prescriptive. If the student's test sample results in testing positive for any sort of substance, the parent will be informed of this information for confirmation.

### **Are students in marching band eligible for student drug testing?**

No. Marching band is considered a co-curricular activity, which includes a grade for credit towards graduation. By law, the district may not drug test a student whose only extra-curricular activity is marching band. For these students, parents may choose to make their child eligible for drug testing by filling out the "Opt In" Student Drug Testing form, found in the district policy. These forms may also be picked up at the high school office.

# COLUMBUS GROVE LOCAL SCHOOLS

**What if a student does not participate in any extracurricular activities? Is there a way parents can have their child eligible for drug testing even if they are not involved in any extra-curricular activities?**

Parents may choose to have their child eligible for drug testing by filling out the "Opt In" Student Drug Testing form, found in the district policy. These forms may also be picked up at the high school office.

**It states in the drug policy that students will need to receive counseling services in the event of a positive test. What area resources are available for such counseling?**

The district has been in contact with Pathways Counseling Center, located on 835 North Locust Street in Ottawa, regarding counseling services. While parents have the option of choosing the service provider for their child, Pathways is the closest counseling service to Columbus Grove Schools and has a reputable background in serving county residents for many years. The contact info for Pathways is 419-523-4300 or [www.pathwaysputnam.org](http://www.pathwaysputnam.org)

**What is taking place in terms of drug awareness education for 7-12 students at Columbus Grove?**

A number of programs and assemblies are being planned for implementation this school year, including:

- **Five Minutes for Life-** This assembly will involve the Ohio State Highway Patrol working with local law enforcement to share situations they have witnessed in their work regarding drug/alcohol abuse.
- **Know! Newsletter-** This is a free online newsletter to which parents can subscribe, empowering them to raise children to be substance free. Go to <https://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/know> to sign up for the newsletter. CGLS will also place newsletter updates on the Columbus Grove Schools Facebook page.
- **Know! Teachable Moments-** Columbus Grove teachers will receive the *Teachable Moments Tips* handout, a twice-monthly publication with provides educational resources and materials that can help spread the message to students and parents.
- **Assemblies-** Putnam County Schools are working with local law enforcement to create both a student and parent assembly regarding the dangers of drug use. More information will be shared when planning of these assemblies is complete.

If you have any further questions regarding student drug testing, please contact Superintendent Nick Verhoff at 659-4301.