

Maumee City Schools Proposed Random Drug Testing Program
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated 11/28/16

Q1: Why has Maumee City Schools developed a random drug testing policy?

A1: This policy is designed to deter and prevent drug use and reinforce the prevention efforts already underway. Schools are in a position to educate students on the dangers of illegal substance use and support those who need help. Random drug testing is a tool designed to give students an additional reason to say “no” and identify those who need help.

Q2: Who was consulted when developing Maumee’s policy?

A2: A committee of parents, Maumee Police, Board of Education members, district and school administration, teachers, and coaches were consulted throughout the development of this policy.

Q3: Which students and grades does this policy affect?

A3: Students in grades 7-12 who are involved in athletics and other competitive extracurricular activities that represent MHS or Gateway Middle School, outside the school district. Students who have a school parking pass are also covered by the policy.

Q4: Which other area schools currently have drug testing programs?

A4: The majority of schools in our athletic conference as well as northwest Ohio currently have a testing program.

Q5: What legal right do schools have in regard to testing students?

A5: Based on a 2002 United States Supreme Court ruling, schools have the right to test students who participate in athletics, extracurricular activities, obtain a parking permit, and/or participate in other activities that do not involve a grade.

Q6: When will testing begin?

A6: Testing will begin in August of 2017.

Q7: Which student groups will be part of the testing pool?

A7: Student groups, clubs, and organizations that participate in competitive events against other schools or representatives of other schools, as well as students who purchase school parking passes will be part of the testing pool. Currently this list includes: all athletic teams, cheer, dance, marching band, guard, winterguard, drumline, speech & debate, quiz bowl, DECA, and JETS club.

Q8: How will parental consent be given?

A8: Parental consent will be part of Maumee's back to school forms and must be agreed to before a student can participate in the groups listed above. Parents may "opt" their student into the testing pool - even if they are not in one of the groups listed above - through the online registration back to school forms. Question #16 also deals with "opt ins".

Q9: How are students randomly selected for testing?

A9: The names of all students eligible to be tested are submitted to the company Maumee has contracted with to handle the testing. The company will assign random numbers to students and a computer program will randomly select the students who will be tested.

Q10: What happens when students are selected? How are they notified?

A10: The testing company sets up a secure location in the building and the students who were randomly selected are called down to the testing location and - following the directions of the laboratory technicians - provide a urine, hair, or saliva sample to be tested. The days in which testing is conducted will be confidential.

Q11: What substances are the students tested for?

A11: A complete list of substances that may be tested for can be found in Maumee's policy. The district will decide how many tests will be conducted. Most schools utilize a 5 or 7 panel test to detect the most common drugs used by students.

Q12: How are the results read?

A12: Testing panels are read immediately on site by the testing company. The following scenarios are possible:

- 1. Negative: The panel tests did not reveal chemical traces of the substances that were tested for.**
- 2. Non-Negative: One or more panels revealed chemical traces of substances that were tested for. This IS NOT A POSITIVE TEST. The testing company will contact the student's parents, tell them that their student had a non-negative testing result, and request the names of all prescription medications that the student is taking. In addition, the sample is sent to a testing lab where additional testing is conducted. Information supplied by the parents along with the results of additional testing will determine if the non-negative result becomes a negative or positive result. The testing company makes this determination.**

3. **Positive:** Information supplied by the parents along with the results of additional testing indicates that the substance tested for was present in the sample.

Q13: Will parents know if their student was tested and the results of the test?

A13: Yes. Following testing, parents of all students who tested negative will be told that their student was tested and may request a letter indicating that the test was negative. Parents of students who tested non-negative will also be contacted and will be kept apprised as the testing process continues.

Q14: Who at the school is informed of non-negative and positive results?

A14: The building principal and athletic director at Maumee High School or Gateway Middle School (school of attendance) are the only staff members who will receive results.

Q15: What are the consequences of a positive test?

A15: There are no academic consequences for a student who tests positive. Students continue in school as usual. There are consequences for extracurricular participation and parking passes as defined in Maumee's existing *Athletic/Extra-Curricular/Co-Curricular Code of Conduct*.

Q16: My student is not in extracurricular activities and does not have a parking pass. Can he/she still be drug tested?

A16: A student in this situation would not be part of the testing pool UNLESS the parent wants to opt their student in. This is a very popular option in schools that perform random drug testing. Students who have a parent opt them into testing are part of the testing pool and the parent would have access to testing results.

Q17: If a student knows he/she has a drug problem and will - most likely - test positive, can he/she self-refer and be drug tested?

A17: The MCS random drug testing policy has a one-time "self-report" option. If a student comes to an administrator and self-reports a drug problem, the school will work with the parents to refer the student to a treatment program. Students who exercise this one-time self-report and enter an approved treatment program will have no consequences related to extracurricular code of conduct tied to this self-report. These students would re-enter the random selection pool for future testing and be subject to extracurricular code of conduct repercussions with no further opportunity to self-report. Students who exercise self-reporting and successfully complete treatment will be required to undergo drug testing during the next testing cycle.

Q18: If I still have questions, who should I contact?

A18: Please contact your building principal if you have additional questions.