

# THE STUDENT DRUG-TESTING COALITION

A PROJECT OF THE  
DRUG-FREE PROJECTS COALITION, INC.

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PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND REDUCE DRUG USE



STUDENT DRUG-TESTING COALITION  
Helping students pursue a better future.

## Student drug testing: The standards

- Student drug-testing records shall be kept confidential in accordance with *written* school policy and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)<sup>1</sup>
- Test-result notifications and collections shall be done following privacy and confidentiality guidelines as established in a *written* policy.
- Drug-testing procedures shall be applied consistently to all students subject to testing.
- Drug-test procedures shall include confirmatory testing at a state licensed or federally certified laboratory using spectometry (as applicable) when a screening-test result is positive.<sup>2</sup>
- A certified Medical Review Officer (MRO) shall review all confirmed-positive drug-test results.
- Parents or legal guardians, the student and school personnel (*on a need-to-know basis*) shall be the *only* persons notified of test results by the MRO.
- All records relating to and *including* student drug-test results shall be destroyed by the school/district upon graduation or other departure of the student from the school district.
- Any drug-screening tests conducted using on-site test kits, shall be done using products with FDA 510(k) pre-market clearance.<sup>3</sup> Alcohol tests should meet federal standards, have FDA clearance or be approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- Choice of specimens to be used for drug and alcohol testing is at the discretion of the school district.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>FERPA, signed into law on August 21, 1974, was passed to protect the privacy of student education records. The original law took effect November 19, 1974. It has been amended six (6) times since passage, with the last amendment being in October of 1998. Covers records, files, documents and other materials containing information directly related to a student and that are maintained by an educational agency or institution.

<sup>2</sup>Spectometry such as GC/MS, GC/MS/MS, LC/MS/MS depending upon the specimen used for testing (i.e. urine, hair, saliva etc.).

<sup>3</sup> FDA 510(k) pre-market clearance provides that a test kit function as it was designed & marketed to function; its efficacy is supported by scientific studies; and that manufacturers comply with federal labeling requirements and federal regulations

<sup>4</sup>School districts may wish to consider following established drug-free workplace standards and practices, as well as giving consideration to testing standards, practices and specimen types that are proven to be legally defensible and reliable. A review of case law and statutes on student or workplace drug testing may provide guidance.