

5504 Extracurricular Drug Testing Program

The school district supports and values student participation in extracurricular activities, but such participation in school district extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Students in all extracurricular activities in grades 7-12 shall be subject to mandatory and random testing for the presence of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs.

1. Purpose of Random Drug Testing

- a.** The school district has recognized that observed and suspected drug, tobacco and alcohol use and abuse has increased among the student population, including students participating in extracurricular activities.
- b.** The school district seeks to provide safe, drug-free schools.
- c.** The school district seeks to deter the use of illegal and prohibited drugs, tobacco and alcohol among students.
- d.** The school district recognizes that students who use illegal and prohibited drugs pose a threat to the health and safety of themselves, other students, teachers, administrators, and other persons.
- e.** The school district finds that the drug and alcohol problem among the student body will be effectively addressed by making sure that the large number of students participating in extracurricular activities do not use drugs, tobacco and alcohol.

2. Notice. Each student who participates or seeks to participate in extracurricular activities shall be given a copy of this policy. This policy may also be included in the student handbook.

3. Drug Testing Coordinator. The Drug Testing Coordinator shall be the Superintendent or his or her designee unless otherwise indicated.

4. Extracurricular Activities. This policy applies to any activity that meets the guidelines of an extracurricular activity at the school district which includes but is not necessarily limited to the following:

Academic (Quiz) Bowl	Drill Team	One Act Plays
Art Club	FBLA	School Plays
Athletic & Academic Banquets	FCCLA	Show Choir
Band/Choir	FFA	Spanish Club
Basketball	Football	Speech/Debate
Cheerleading	Golf	Student Senate (Council)
Cross Country	Inter-High Day	Track
Dances (Homecoming, Prom, etc.)	Jazz Band	Volleyball
	Letter Club	Wrestling
	Mock Trial	Yearbook/ Journalism
	Musicals	
	National Honor Society	

5. Students Who Are Required to Submit to Drug Testing

- a. **Grades.** All students in grades 7-12 who participate in any extracurricular activity or competition are part of the pool subject to random drug testing.
- b. **Consent.** A student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign a consent form before the student shall be eligible to try out for, practice with, or participate in the extracurricular activity. The consent form is attached to this policy.
- c. **Selection Pool Eligibility.** Students are required to complete the consent form within 5 days of the start of the school year or prior to the first day of practice, whichever comes first. Students shall remain in the selection pool for an entire calendar year (365 days) from the date the consent form is received by the school district except that students who quit during the season or activity (prior to being selected for testing) may withdraw from the pool. Students who enroll in school during the school year will be required to complete the form within 5 days or prior to practicing, whichever comes first. They will remain in the pool until the beginning of the next school year.
- d. **Withdrawal.** Students who have a consent form on file remain eligible for drug tests from the date the consent form is received by the school district and throughout the remainder of the school year or until the student files a Withdrawal of Student from Activity form signed by the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s). Upon withdrawal, the student shall not be eligible to participate in any activity that is subject to drug testing

for the remainder of the school year. A student who files a Withdrawal of Student from Activity form after selected for a random drug test but before submitting to the test or after testing positive shall be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities for one calendar year from the date the Withdrawal of Student from Activity form is received by the Drug Testing Coordinator.

6. **Drugs.** Students participating in extracurricular activities are prohibited from using, possessing, distributing, manufacturing, or having drugs present in their system. "Drugs" means:
- a. Any substance considered illegal by the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-401 *et seq.*
 - b. Any substance which is controlled by the Food and Drug Administration unless prescribed to the student by any licensed medical practitioner authorized to prescribe controlled substances or other prescription drugs;
 - c. Alcohol for any student under the age of 21. Alcohol shall have the meaning as provided in NEB. REV. STAT. § 48-1902(1).
 - d. Tobacco

7. **Testing Procedures**

- a. **Student Selection.** All students who participate in extracurricular activities and submit a consent form will be included in a master list and will be subject to random drug screening. The master list shall be submitted to the company employed by the district to conduct the testing.
- b. **Reasonable Suspicion Testing.** In addition to random drug testing, a student is subject to drug testing at any time when the Drug Testing Coordinator determines there is individualized reasonable suspicion based upon articulable facts to believe that the student has used a drug. The Drug Testing Coordinator will notify the student and take the necessary steps to schedule a test as soon as practicable.
- c. **Parental Request.** Students who do not participate in extracurricular activities may be added to the random drug screening master list upon parental request. Parent(s)/guardians may also request that their student be subject to non-random drug screening. The school will arrange for the test as soon as

practicable. The parent(s)/guardian(s) making a request under this subparagraph must submit a signed consent form and indicate which type of test is being requested. Any cost associated with tests administered as a result of parental request must be paid by the parent(s)/guardian(s) in advance of the test.

- d. Type of Test.** The school district reserves the right to utilize breath, saliva, hair or urinalysis testing procedures. Urine and oral fluid samples which screen positive will be confirmed by GC/MS (Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry). Positive saliva or breath alcohol tests will be confirmed by EBT (Evidential Breath Tester).
- e. Collection Site.** The Drug Testing Coordinator will designate the collection site at which student will provide specimens. The collection site may be off the premises of the school district.
- f. Collection Procedures.** The school board will select a Drug Program Administrator (DPA). The DPA shall randomly select the students subject to drug testing from the master list. The DPA will maintain and follow generally accepted industry standards for collecting, maintaining, shipping, and accessing all specimens. The DPA will seek to obtain the sample in a manner designed to insure accurate testing protocols while minimizing intrusion into a student's privacy. The DPA and the school district will provide a copy of the collection procedures upon request.
- g. Drugs.** Students may be randomly tested for any drugs, including but not limited to alcohol, amphetamines, marijuana or cannabinoids, cocaine, methadone, methaqualone, propoxyphene, hallucinogens, opiates, phencyclidine, synthetic opiates and PCP, steroids, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, and any prescription drug that was obtained without proper authorization.
- h. Results.** The DPA shall notify the student and the Drug Testing Coordinator of any positive test after the initial screening. The school representative shall notify the student's parents. The DPA will use a secure method to transmit all positive test results to the DPA's Medical Review Officer (MRO). The MRO will be certified by an MRO accreditation body. The MRO will be responsible for reviewing test results and determining whether the use of a substance identified by the sample analysis is from illicit use or a legitimate medical use. Prior to making a final decision, the MRO or his or her assistant shall contact the student and his or

parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the result either face-to-face or over the telephone. If the MRO determines the test results are negative, no further action shall be taken against the student. The MRO will report results of verified positives to the DPA. The DPA shall then notify the Drug Testing Coordinator of the positive test result. The Drug Testing Coordinator shall notify the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) and any staff members responsible for implementing the consequences of this policy.

- i. **Request for a Retest.** A split specimen will be collected for all testing methods, with the exception of alcohol testing. A positive alcohol test will be confirmed with an EBT device. A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may request that the split specimen be tested at a second nationally certified laboratory from a list provided by the MRO. The request for the test must be submitted in writing to the MRO (with a copy sent to the Drug Testing Coordinator) within 72 hours of being notified of the final testing result. The student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must pay the associated costs for an additional test in advance. The costs will be reimbursed if the result of the split sample test is negative. The student will remain subject to the consequences of this policy during the retesting procedure.

8. Negative Tests. Students and their parents will receive verbal or written notice when the student's test result is negative.

9. **Consequences for Testing Positive.** Whenever the test results indicate the presence of drugs, Drug Testing Coordinator shall schedule and hold a confidential meeting with the student, parent/guardian, and sponsor/coach. Other members of the school's administration may also attend the meeting. At the meeting, the Drug Testing Coordinator shall explain the drug testing procedures and the policy of the district. The consequences for testing positive can be found in Board Policy 5503 which is attached to this policy as Appendix A. **All offenses are cumulative in grades 7-12** :

10. Refusal to Test

A student who refuses to submit to a drug test authorized under this policy, or fails or refuses to comply with any other provision of this policy, shall be deemed to have submitted a positive test.

11. Tampering

Tampering is the use of any agent or technique which is designed to avoid detection of a drug and/or compromise the integrity of a drug test and is prohibited. This includes providing false urine samples (for example, urine substitution), contaminating the urine sample with chemicals or chemical products, the use of diuretics to dilute urine samples, and the use of masking. If the Drug Testing Coordinator determines that a student tampered with a drug test, the student shall be deemed to have submitted a positive test.

The use of any such agent or technique shall be treated as a positive test for drugs prohibited by this Policy and shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 9 of this Policy.

12. Maintenance of Records

All results of drug testing shall be confidential. Procedures for maintaining confidentiality will be developed by the school district and the testing organization. The Drug Testing Coordinator shall maintain records of positive tests in a secure location. This information will not be available to anyone other than appropriate school personnel and parents. This information will be destroyed upon the student's graduation or one year after the student's class graduates. Under no circumstances will this information become a part of the student's permanent file, nor will it be sent to another school when the student moves to another district or transfers to another school. The school district will not share drug testing results with any law enforcement agencies.

13. Appeal.

The school district will rely solely upon the opinion of the MRO to determine whether the positive test result was the result of the consumption of a drug. There shall be no appeal of the test result to any school administrator or the board of education.

14. Severability

If any portion of this policy is deemed to be contrary to the law of the state of Nebraska or the United States by judicial decision or an act of Congress, then only such portion or provision directly deemed to be unconstitutional shall be stricken, and the remainder of the policy shall remain in full force.

Adopted: January 2019
Amended: July 2019

Appendix A
5503
Drugs and Alcohol

An activity participant who violates the drug or alcohol rules (other than steroids) shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

1. First Violation: 45 days.
2. Second or Any Subsequent Offense: One (1) calendar year.
3. Reduction for Self-Reporting: If the student has self-reported, the first violation shall be reduced to 21 days for the first violation. A commensurate reduction (approximately one-half, as determined by the administration) for a second or subsequent violation shall be given for self-reporting.
4. Reduction for Participation in Chemical Dependency Program: If the student and parents agree to participate in a school-approved program for chemical dependency, the consequence will be reduced to only the next activity in which the student was to participate (including at least one contest) in the case of a first violation, and to a commensurate reduction (approximately 80%, as determined by the administration, for a second or subsequent violation).

The program must be administered by a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor and be approved by the school authorities. The student will need to successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program. Proof of successful completion of the program must be submitted in writing to the Activities Director. Failure to participate and successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program may cause the participating student to be suspended from extracurricular activities for one (1) calendar year. All costs associated with the program are to be borne by the student/parent or guardian.

5. More Serious Violations: In the event of more serious drug or alcohol violations, such as students engaging in use of especially serious drug offenses (cocaine, meth, etc.) or procuring alcohol for minors, the consequence of the violation is not restricted by the foregoing, and may be established in the good discretion of the administration.

Steroid Offenses. A student who possesses, dispenses, delivers, or administers anabolic steroids shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

1. First Violation: Thirty (30) consecutive days.

2. Second or Any Subsequent Offense: One (1) calendar year.

When Suspensions Begin. All suspensions begin with the next scheduled activity in which the student is a participant, after the determination by school officials of the sanction to be imposed; provided that the school officials shall have the discretion to establish a time period for the suspension that makes the suspension have a real consequence for the student. During a suspension, participants may be required or permitted to practice at the sole discretion of the coach or activity sponsor. Suspensions in the Spring will be carried over to the Fall when the suspension has not been fully served or when determined appropriate for the suspension to have a real consequence for the student.

Letters and Post-Season Honors. A student who commits a Code of Conduct violation is:

1. Eligible to letter, provided the student meets the criteria of the coach or sponsor.
2. Not eligible to receive honors during the sport or activity in which they are participating at the time of the offense and/or in sports or activities in which they have been suspended due to a code violation. The coach/sponsor, with the Athletic Director's approval, may make an exception where the student has self-reported or otherwise demonstrated excellence in character allowing for such honors.

Self-Reporting. A student who violates the Code of Conduct must self-report. A failure to self-report will lead to a longer suspension or other discipline. The self-report must be made to: the principal, athletic director, or the head coach or sponsor of an activity in which the student participates. The student's parent or guardian may initiate the self-reporting process, but the student will be later required to give a written statement of the self-report. The self-report must be made the earlier of: (1) before the end of the next school day after the conduct occurred and (2) before participation in an extracurricular or co-curricular activity.

In making a self-report, the student must identify the events that took place, what conduct the student engaged in, and any witnesses to the student's conduct, and will be required to put this information in a written statement. In the event the student has received a criminal citation, charge, or ticket, and proclaims innocence of a violation, the student will be required to self-report such offense and provide information as to why they should be found innocent, not as it relates to the criminal offense, but as it relates to the Code of Conduct.

All students are expected to be honest and forthright with school officials. In the event the coach or activity sponsor or any school administrator asks a student participant for information pertaining to compliance (or lack of compliance) by the student or other student participants with the Code of Conduct or eligibility conditions for participation in activities, the student is expected to fully, completely, and honestly provide the information. Students may be disciplined for a failure to be honest and forthright.

Determining a Violation Has Occurred. A violation of the Code of Conduct will be determined to have occurred based on any of the following criteria:

1. When a student is cited by law enforcement and school officials have a reasonable basis for determining that grounds for the issuance of the citation exist.
2. When a student is convicted of a criminal offense. Conviction includes, without limitation, a conviction, a plea of no contest and an adjudication of delinquency by a juvenile court.
3. When a student admits to violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct.
4. When a student is accused by another person of violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct and school officials determine that such information is reliable.
5. When school officials otherwise find sufficient evidence to support a determination that a violation has occurred.

Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline. The following procedures are established for suspensions from participation in extracurricular activities:

1. Investigation. The school official(s) considering the suspension will conduct a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether the suspension will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with a school purpose.
2. Meeting. Prior to commencement of the suspension, the school official considering the suspension or their designee will provide the student an opportunity to give the student's side of the story. The meeting for this purpose may be held in person or via a telephone conference.
 - a. The student will be given oral or written notice of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and the opportunity to explain the student's version. Detail is not required where the activity participant has made a self-report or otherwise admits the conduct. Names of informants may be kept confidential where determined to be appropriate.
 - b. The suspension may be imposed prior to the meeting if the meeting can not reasonably be held before the suspension is to begin. In that case the meeting will occur as soon as reasonably practicable. The student is responsible for cooperating in the scheduling of the meeting.

3. Notice Letter. Within two (2) school days (two (2) business days if school is not in session), or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Athletic Director or the Athletic Director's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian. The statement will describe the student's conduct violation and the discipline imposed. The student and parents or guardian will be informed of the opportunity to request a hearing.
4. Informal Hearing Before Superintendent. The student or student's parent/guardian may request an informal hearing before the Superintendent. The Superintendent may designate the Athletic Director or another administrator not responsible for the suspension decision as the Superintendent's designee to conduct the hearing and make a decision.
 - a. A form to request such a hearing must be signed by the parent or guardian. A form will be provided with the notice letter or otherwise be made available by request from the Principal's office.
 - b. The request for a hearing must be received by the Superintendent's office within five (5) days of receipt of the notice letter.
 - c. If a hearing is requested:
 - i. The hearing will be held within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the request; subject to extension for good cause as determined by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
 - ii. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing a reasonable time in advance to allow preparation for the hearing.
 - iii. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five (5) school days (ten (10) calendar days if school is not in session). The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian.
 - iv. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the informal hearing) will be kept by the school if requested sufficiently in advance of the hearing by the parent/guardian.
5. No Stay of Penalty. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending completion of the due process procedures.

6. Opportunity for Informal Resolution. These due process procedures do not prevent the student or parent/guardian from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school officials at any stage.

Suspensions require no performance, but the continued participation in practice. It is also important to point out that an extracurricular activity coach has the right to lengthen or include other penalties *in addition* to the consequences listed in the above policy. However, if a coach intends to do so, it must be listed in his/her specific sport handbook, and communicated to parents/athletes at the beginning of the season.



Appendix B

CONSENT TO PERFORM RANDOM DRUG TESTING 2019-2020

Student Name _____ Grade _____

As a student and parent:

- < We understand and agree that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege that may be withdrawn for violations of the Extracurricular Drug Testing Policy.
- < We have read the Extracurricular Drug Testing Policy and understand the responsibilities and consequences as an activity participant if the student violates the policy.
- < We understand that when students participate in any extracurricular activity, they will be subjected to random drug testing, and if they refuse, will not be allowed to practice or participate in any extracurricular activity. We have read this consent statement and agree to its terms.
- < We understand this is binding while a student is enrolled in Dundy County Stratton School District.

CONSENT TO PERFORM DRUG TESTING

We hereby consent to allow the student named on this form to undergo drug testing for the presence of drugs and alcohol in accordance with the Extracurricular Drug Testing Program adopted by the Board of Education. We understand that any samples will be sent only to a qualified laboratory for actual testing. We hereby give our consent to the medical vendor selected by the school board, their Medical Review Office (MRO), laboratory, doctors, employees, or agents, together with any clinic, hospital, or laboratory designated by the selected medical vendor to perform testing for the detection of drugs and to release the results of those tests as provided in the policy. We understand these results will be forwarded to school district officials and will also be made available to us. We agree to sign any necessary releases if requested to do so.

We understand that consent pursuant to this Consent to Perform Random Drug Testing will be effective for all extracurricular activities in which this student might participate during the current school year.

We hereby release the Dundy County Stratton Board of Education and its employees from any legal responsibility or liability for the release of such information and records, pursuant to the policy.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Mr. Jim Kent
Superintendent
 308.423.2738
 Fax: 308.217.0380

Mr. Adam Fette
HS Principal • Activities Director
 308.423.2738
 Fax: 308.217.0380

Mr. Mike Rotherham • Elementary Principal
Benkelman Elementary **Stratton Elementary**
 308.423.2216 308.276.2281
 Fax: 308.217.0380 Fax: 308-217-0380



Appendix C

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENT FROM ACTIVITY 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

I understand that by signing this form I am rescinding my permission for random drug screening and no longer wish to participate in any extracurricular activity. I further understand that I am forfeiting my privilege to participate in athletics and/or extracurricular activities for the remainder of this school year.

I hereby rescind my consent to the administration of the drug screening and forfeit all participation in extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year at the school district.

Student's Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mr. Jim Kent
Superintendent
308.423.2738
Fax: 308.217.0380

Mr. Adam Fette
HS Principal • Activities Director
308.423.2738
Fax: 308.217.0380

Mr. Mike Rotherham • Elementary Principal
Benkelman Elementary Stratton Elementary
308.423.2216 308.276.2281
Fax: 308.217.0380 Fax: 308-217-0380