

Alma School District

Student Drug Testing Program

Purpose:

The Alma School District recognizes that chemical abuse or misuse is a significant health issue for students, detrimentally affecting overall health, behavior, learning ability, safety, and the total development of the individual. The Alma Board of Education strongly desires to help students by providing a reason for the student to: "SAY NO". This program is not an effort to entrap students, punish them, or cause them to be arrested. It is an effort to help students avoid any temptation to use drugs. The most desired outcome would be for no students to ever test positive because no students are using drugs.

Definitions:

- Chemical Abuse:** The use of illegal drugs or alcohol, and/or the inappropriate or misuse of legal drugs and medications, without limitation.
- Drug:** Any substance considered illegal by Arkansas Statutes, or which is controlled by the Food and Drug Administration unless prescribed by a licensed physician.
- Activity Program:** Any activity that is sanctioned by the Arkansas Activities Association and/or any club or organization sponsored and/or approved by Alma High School or Alma Middle School.
- School Year:** From the first day of classes in the fall, unless the activity begins prior to the first day of classes, in which case, from the first day of the activity, through the last day of classes in the spring.
- Adulterated Test:** A student urine sample that has been tainted with an outside agent, does not fall within an acceptable temperature range, or for any other reason is deemed to have been made unusable as a result of some deliberate action by the student. An adulterated test will be deemed to be a positive test.

Rationale:

To help ensure the total well-being of all students at Alma Middle School (grades 7-8 only) and Alma High School.

To emphasize the health and safety of students as well as addressing the long-term physical and emotional effects of chemical use on their health.

To undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students in activity programs to refuse illegal drugs.

To encourage students in activity programs who use drugs to discontinue such use and participate in drug treatment programs.

To establish a standard of conduct for students representing Alma School District who are considered leaders and standard bearers among their peers.

To work with parents to assist in keeping their children drug free.

Procedures for Students in Activity Programs

Consent:

Each student wishing to participate in any activity program and the student's custodial parent or guardian will consent in writing to drug testing pursuant to the Alma School District drug testing program. Written consent is a form provided by the District. No student shall be allowed to participate in any activity program absent of such consent.

This form of consent will be binding for the remainder of the school year unless the district is notified in writing by the student's parent or guardian that the student is no longer in any activity and the parent's wish is for their child's consent for drug testing to be rescinded.

Students not involved in activities will be allowed to voluntarily participate in the testing pool with a consent form signed by the parent.

Student Selection:

At the option of the District, all students in activity programs may be drug tested at the beginning of the school year, or at the beginning of their activity. In addition, random drug testing will be conducted during the year. The random drug testing shall be made up of a sufficient number of students in the activity programs to create a probability that each student may be randomly tested at some time during the school year. Testing will occur numerous times throughout the school year on a random schedule. Selection for random testing will be by lottery drawing from a "pool" of all students in activity programs in the school at the time of that testing. All students subject to testing will be in a pool of potential students for testing each time testing occurs. A test can also be specifically requested by any coach/director/sponsor/administrator/parent for a student, upon reasonable suspicion of drug

use. Such suspicion will be verified by the Drug Abuse Prevention Coordinator. The Coordinator shall take all reasonable steps to assure the integrity, confidentiality, and the random nature of the selection process, including, but not necessarily limited to, assuring that the names of all participating students in activity programs are in the pool, assuring the identity of students drawn for testing are not known to those involved in the selection process and assuring direct observation of the process by the least intrusive means possible while assuring brevity and privacy.

Sample Collection:

Urine samples will be collected at a scheduled time on the same day the student is selected for testing. All students providing samples will do so in private in an individual restroom stall with the door closed.

Testing Agency:

The District will choose a qualified and licensed outside agency for the purpose of processing sample results and maintaining privacy with respect to test results and related matters.

Prescription Medication:

The existence of lawfully prescribed medication in the student's sample is not a violation of this program when taken in accordance with a physician's recommendation or prescription to a specific student. Some over-the-counter medications may have similarities to unlawful drugs when tested. Students must inform the drug testing coordinator of any prescription medications they are taking at the time of testing. Students who fail to provide such verification, and test positive will be subject to the actions specified below for a "positive test."

Scope of Test:

The drug screening test is for a wide range of illegal and prescription drugs that may change from time to time depending on current drug abuse trends and available testing technology. Student samples will not be screened for the presence of any substance other than these products or for the existence of any other physical condition.

If the sample test is negative, the student and parents will be so notified.

Limited Access to Results:

The testing lab will be authorized to report results only to the Drug Abuse Prevention Coordinator at the student's school.

Procedures in the Event of a Positive Result:

Whenever a student's test is positive, the following will occur:

First Positive Result:

For the first positive test, in a school year, a custodial parent or legal guardian will be notified and a meeting will be scheduled with the Drug Abuse Prevention Coordinator or his designee, the custodial parent or legal guardian, the student, the student's principal and the student's head coach(s), director(s) and/or sponsor(s). The purpose of this meeting will be for school personnel to assist the student and parents in understanding the severity of the situation and to encourage steps that will result in the cessation of drug use by the student. A student with their first positive test will be re-tested each time testing occurs for the remainder of the school year. This program does not prevent coaches, directors, or sponsors from taking additional measures as they deem appropriate and in the best interest of their respective program(s).

Second Positive Result:

For the second positive test that occurs within the same school year, the student will be suspended from competition, presentations and all participation in all involvement in all activities for the remainder of the school year. If the second positive test result occurs with less than 30 calendar days left in the spring semester, the student will not be allowed to participate in activities through the following fall semester.

A student with a second positive result may petition to the Drug Abuse Prevention Coordinator for reinstatement to activities, if he/she has a negative test thirty or more days after their second positive test and an additional negative test thirty or more days after the first negative test. Reinstatement will be at the discretion of the Drug Abuse Prevention Coordinator, with the approval of building principal. If reinstated, the student will continue to be tested every time testing occurs for the remainder of his/her enrollment in their respective school.

Third Positive Result:

For the third positive test, the student will be suspended from participating in activities for the remainder of his/her enrollment in their respective school.

Appeal

This program will be applied uniformly without prejudice by the Drug Abuse Prevention Coordinator. Any application or interpretation of this program may be appealed by the student or his parents or legal guardian utilizing procedures outlined in the student handbook.

Non-Punitive Nature of Program:

No student will be penalized academically for testing positive under this program. The result of any drug test pursuant to this program will not be documented in any student's academic records. Information regarding the results of drug testing will not be disclosed to criminal or juvenile authorities absent legal compulsion by valid and binding subpoena or other legal process, which the district will not solicit. In the event of service of any such subpoena or legal process, the student and student's custodial parent or legal guardian will be notified as soon as possible by the District.

Counseling/Rehabilitation:

Counseling/Rehabilitation services are recommended for any student who tests positive. Any counseling/rehabilitation service cost will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The following are some agencies that provide counseling/rehabilitation services. By supplying this list, the Alma Board of Education, its agents, or employees take no responsibility in the selection of which agency the student/parent chooses to use, or for any outcome or lack thereof. The final decision to seek counseling for the student and the cost of counseling/rehabilitation shall be the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian.

Horizon, Fort Smith, 479-478-6664

Gateway, Fort Smith, 479-783-8849

River Valley Counseling, Fort Smith, 479-434-5566

Western Arkansas Counseling/Guidance, Fort Smith, 479-452-6650

The Bridgeway, North Little Rock, 501-771-1500

Methodist Counseling Center, Fayetteville, 479-582-5565

Crawford County Juvenile Department, Van Buren, 479-474-5049

Credit Counseling Advocates, Van Buren, 479-410-1700

Conclusion:

This program and the resulting procedures represent the strongest possible commitment by the Alma School District and the Alma Board of Education to help assure that Alma students are able to become successful, healthy, productive adults. The intent is to provide students with every opportunity to make good decisions regarding the use of illegal and controlled substances. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to discuss any aspect of this program with school personnel at any time they have questions or concerns.

Student Name <i>(please print)</i>	Current Grade	School Year

Alma School District
916 Highway 64 East
Alma, AR 72921
479-632-4791

Mandatory Drug Testing Program
General Authorization Form

Alma School District drug testing is mandatory for all students in extracurricular activities and optional for all other students. Please refer to the student handbook for drug testing policies and procedures.

I understand that my performance as I participate and the reputation of my school are dependent, in part, on my conduct as an individual. I hereby agree to accept and abide by the standards, rules, and regulations set forth by Alma School District and the sponsors for the activities in which I participate.

I also authorize Alma School District to conduct a test on a urine specimen which I provide to test for drug and/or alcohol use. I also authorize the release of information concerning the results of such a test to the Alma School District and my parents and/or guardians.

This shall be deemed a consent pursuant to the Family Education Right to Privacy Act for release of the above information to the parties named above.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date