

Pre-Employment Drug Testing

These procedures set forth the administrative regulations which define the manner in which the district seeks to ensure that candidates for new employment in the district are not currently using unlawful drugs. These procedures are part of the district's overall commitment to providing a safe and drug-free workplace environment in all district facilities and for all school operations.

Definitions

1. "Applicant" - A person who has filed an application for employment with the district. This shall include both licensed and designated classified positions, and both full-time positions on a temporary or short-term substitute basis.
2. "Candidate" - An applicant who has been selected for employment on a probationary basis pending satisfactory completion of the district's drug-testing program.
3. "Drugs" - Any drug or substance classified in schedules I through V under the Federal Controlled Substances (Act, 21 U.S.C. 811 to 812), including, but not limited to, mind-altering substances or narcotic drugs such as hallucinogenic, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana or any other unlawful drug or controlled substance, except those prescribed by a physician and used as directed.

Procedures

1. A statement that drug testing is a part of the district's pre-employment process, and that satisfactory completion of such drug screening is a prerequisite of employment for designated positions in the district will be posted in the district administrative office and will also be included as a part of the overall application packet. Also included in the application packet will be a Consent for Pre-employment Drug Testing and a Release of Information form.
2. A candidate will be offered employment on a probationary basis pending satisfactory completion of the district's drug-testing program for unlawful drugs.
3. The personnel office will schedule an appointment for the prospective new employee with the district's designated drug-testing laboratory at the earliest practical time after a candidate is selected for a position.
4. A candidate shall report to the district-designated laboratory to conduct the pre-employment drug screening at the approved time, which will, when practical be within 24 hours following the offer of employment, or the district may withdraw the job offer.

5. The district's designated drug screening laboratory will be required to provide written assurance that the following standards will be maintained:
 - a. It will utilize reliable testing protocols and procedures. It will also establish screening cut-off levels that assure that drugs are present at a sufficiently high level to allow the district to reasonably conclude that the candidate is currently engaging in the unlawful use of drugs, consistent with generally accepted standards, and protect the candidate's right to privacy to the fullest extent possible;
 - b. It will secure the candidate's written consent to perform the pre-employment screening tests;
 - c. It will perform drug-screening tests of the presence of unlawful drugs and will use generally accepted drug-testing procedures to verify positive tests, and use accepted follow-up procedures, where appropriate;
 - d. Verify all positive screening tests for illegal drugs, and abuse of prescription medications by interviewing the candidate for possible explanation and by contracting the prescribing physician or pharmacy, as appropriate;
 - e. Follow immediate verbal communication to the superintendent or his/her designee, it will also provide written confirmation to the district administrative office within five days following the screening.
6. The personnel office will notify the candidate of the results of the drug tests:
 - a. Candidates who wish to challenge the accuracy of a positive result on the drug tests may request that the test be repeated. The original specimen will be utilized for retesting. Requests for retesting must be submitted in writing to the personnel office within two working days of notification of a positive test result;
 - b. The candidate will pay for the cost of the original drug screening and a second test (if requested) on the original sample in order to confirm the results of the first test;
 - c. If the results of the retesting are positive, the tentative offer of employment shall be null and void, and immediately withdrawn. The candidate shall not be employed by the district.
7. If the candidate passes the drug screening test (negative result), but fails the integrity test (sample too diluted), the candidate will be advised that he/she has failed the integrity portion of the screening, and will be retested at candidate's expense. Candidates will also be advised to limit fluids for four hours prior to the drug-screening procedure. If the candidate fails to pass the integrity test the second time, the District's offer of employment shall be null and void, and immediately withdrawn. The candidate shall not be employed by the district.
8. If the drug testing inadvertently reveals that a candidate is taking medication for the treatment of a disability, this information will not be used by the district to unlawfully discriminate against the candidate on the basis of that disability.
9. Written records of drug-testing results will be maintained in separate files and will be treated as confidential medical records by the district.
10. If the results of the screening tests for illegal drugs are satisfactory, the candidate will be invited to return to the personnel office to complete all prerequisite employment forms.

The following positions have been identified by the district as safety-sensitive positions as defined in policy and positions in which the person is responsible for students' safety and security.

1. Licensed teachers;
2. Licensed administrators
3. Instructional assistants;
4. School based office workers;
5. District student services facilitator;
6. Custodians/Plan engineers/Maintenance workers including maintenance supervisor;
7. Bus drivers including supervisor;
8. Extracurricular activity employees, including coaches/athletic trainers, club, organization or other extracurricular advisors;
9. Others as identified by the superintendent as having a job description providing the opportunity and probability for safety sensitive positions which the person is responsible for students' safety and security.

Transfers

Current employees will be required to follow district policy when transferring into an identified position, regardless of previous assignment. For example: a non-identified employee who transfers in to an identified category must follow district drug screening process.

Drug Screen Payment

The candidate will submit a check to the District for the drug screen fee. The District will hold the candidate's check until a result has been determined. When a "negative" result has been determined the check will be returned to the candidate (or destroyed per candidate's permission). If a "positive" result is determined, the District will be obligated to cash the candidate's check to cover the drug screening expense.