

DRUG TESTING FOR DISTRICT PERSONNEL REQUIRED  
TO HOLD A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

School bus drivers and others required to hold a commercial driver's license (CDL) are subject to a drug and alcohol testing program that fulfills the requirements of federal regulations.

These regulations reflect several requirements of the federal drug testing regulations but are not intended in any way to modify or limit the procedures for drug and alcohol testing. District personnel must adhere to the detailed provisions of federal regulations in administering the District's drug and alcohol program. Districts must also adhere to State laws pertaining to drug and alcohol testing for drivers required to hold a CDL.

References to tests in these regulations include both drug and alcohol tests unless the context specifies otherwise. The terms drugs and controlled substances are interchangeable and have the same meaning. Testing includes the ~~standard seven-panel~~ Department of Transportation's **current drug testing requirements**, ~~screen, which includes: Cannabinoid (THC), amphetamines (and methamphetamines), cocaine, MDMA (ecstasy), opiates, heroin (6-Monoacetyl morphine) and phencyclidine (PCP).~~

Pre-Employment Tests

Prior to the first time a driver performs safety-sensitive functions for the District, a controlled substances test is administered.

The test is required of an applicant only after he/she has been offered employment. Employment is conditional upon the applicant receiving a negative drug test result.

An employee may be exempt from the pre-employment drug test if he/she has participated in a drug-testing program within 30 days prior to the application for employment. While participating in that program the employee must either have been tested for drugs within the last six months (from the date of application) or participated in a random drug testing program in the previous 12 months. The responsible administrator must be able to make all verifications required by law.

Post-Accident Tests

Prior to a driver operating a school bus, the District will provide the driver with necessary post-accident information, procedures and instructions, so that the driver will be able to comply with these requirements.

Alcohol and controlled substance tests are conducted in the time limits imposed by the federal regulations after an accident on any driver who:

1. was performing safety-sensitive functions with respect to the vehicle if the accident involved loss of human life and/or
2. received a citation under State or local law for a moving-traffic violation arising from the accident.

No driver involved in an accident may use alcohol for eight hours after the accident or until he/she undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first.

If an alcohol test is not administered within two hours or if a drug test is not administered within 32 hours after the accident, the responsible administrator prepares and maintains records explaining why the test was not conducted.

Tests conducted by authorized federal, state or local officials fulfill post-accident testing requirements, provided they conform to applicable legal requirements and are obtained by the responsible administrator. Breath tests validate only the alcohol test and cannot be used to fulfill controlled-substance testing obligations.

*(Permissive language)*

The Board reserves the right to require any driver involved in an accident while on duty to undergo alcohol and controlled substance testing.

### Random Tests

Alcohol and controlled substance tests are conducted on a random basis at unannounced times throughout the year. Random tests are conducted just before, during or just after the performance of safety-sensitive functions. Once notified of selection for drug testing, a driver must proceed immediately to a collection site to provide a urine specimen.

Drivers are selected by a scientifically valid random process, and each driver has an equal chance of being tested each time selections are made. All drivers, whether full-time or substitute, and other individuals who are certified to operate school buses and may be called upon to do so, will be included in the random pool. Individuals who are selected for a random test but who are not operating a school bus at the time of the selection will be passed over, and an alternate driver will be tested under the random draw. The number of bus drivers selected for random testing is in accordance with federal regulations.

### Reasonable Suspicion Tests

Tests must be conducted when a properly trained supervisor or District official has reasonable suspicion that the driver has violated the District's alcohol or drug prohibitions. This reasonable suspicion must be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the driver's appearance, behavior, speech or body odors. The observations may include indications of chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.

Alcohol tests are authorized for reasonable suspicion only if the required observations are made during, just before or just after the period of the workday when the driver must comply with alcohol prohibitions. If an alcohol test is not administered within two hours of a determination of reasonable suspicion, the appropriate administrator prepares and maintains a record explaining why this was not done. Attempts to conduct alcohol tests terminate after eight hours.

An alcohol test may not be conducted by the person who determines that reasonable suspicion exists to conduct such a test.

A supervisor or District official who makes a finding of reasonable suspicion must also make a written record of his/her observations leading to a reasonable-suspicion drug test within 24 hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the drug test are released, whichever is earlier.

In accordance with federal regulations, third party information may not be the only determining factor used to conduct reasonable suspicion testing.

*(Permissive language next two sections only – add if District elects to continue employment of a driver who has tested positive for drugs and/or alcohol.)*

### Return-to-Duty Tests

A drug or alcohol test is conducted when a driver who has violated the drug or alcohol prohibition returns to performing safety-sensitive duties.

Employees whose conduct involved misuse of drugs may not return to duty in a safety-sensitive function until the return-to-duty drug test produces a verified negative result.

Employees whose conduct involved alcohol may not return to duty in a safety-sensitive function until the return-to-duty alcohol test produces a verified result that meets federal and District standards.

### Follow-Up Tests

A driver who violates the drug or alcohol prohibition and is subsequently identified by a substance-abuse professional as needing assistance in resolving a drug or alcohol problem is subject to unannounced follow-up testing as directed by the substance-abuse professional in accordance with law. Follow-up alcohol testing is conducted just before, during or just after the time when the driver is performing safety-sensitive functions.

### Records

Employee drug and alcohol test results and records are maintained under strict confidentiality and released only in accordance with law. Upon written request, a driver receives copies of any records pertaining to his/her use of drugs or alcohol, including any records pertaining to his/her drug or alcohol tests. Records are made available to a subsequent employer or other identified persons only as expressly requested in writing by the driver.

### Notifications

Each driver receives educational materials that explain the requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 382, together with a copy of the policy and regulations for meeting these requirements. Representatives of employee organizations are notified of the availability of this information. The information identifies:

1. the person designated by the Board to answer driver questions about the materials;
2. categories of drivers who are subject to the drug and alcohol testing requirements;
3. sufficient information about the safety-sensitive functions performed by drivers to make clear for what period of the workday driver compliance is required;
4. specific information concerning driver conduct that is prohibited;
5. circumstances under which a driver is tested for drugs and/or alcohol;
6. procedures that are used to test for the presence of drugs and alcohol, protect the driver and the integrity of the testing processes, safeguard the validity of test results and ensure that test results are attributed to the correct driver;
7. the requirement that a driver submit to drug and alcohol tests administered in accordance with federal regulations;
8. an explanation of what constitutes a refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol test and the attendant consequences;

9. consequences for drivers found to have violated the drug and alcohol prohibitions, including the requirement that the driver be removed immediately from safety-sensitive functions and the procedures for referral, evaluation and treatment;
10. consequences for drivers found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04 and
11. information concerning the effects of drugs and alcohol on an individual's health, work and personal life; external and internal signs and symptoms of a drug or alcohol problem; and available methods of intervening when a drug or alcohol problem is suspected including confrontation, referral to an employee assistance program and/or referral to administrative officials.

Each driver must sign a statement certifying that he/she has received a copy of the above materials.

The Board-designated administrator notifies a driver of the results of a pre-employment drug test if the driver requests such results within 60 calendar days of being notified of the disposition of his/her employment application.

The Board designee notifies a driver of the results of random, reasonable suspicion and post-accident drug tests if the test results are verified positive. The designee also tells the driver which controlled substances were verified as positive.

Drivers inform their supervisors if at any time they are using a controlled substance that their physician has prescribed for therapeutic purposes. Such a substance may be used only if the physician is familiar with the driver's medical history and has advised the driver that it will not adversely affect his/her ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle. The District may require additional written notification from the prescribing physician.

### Enforcement

Any driver who refuses to submit to post-accident, random, reasonable-suspicion or follow-up tests is not allowed to perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions, and is ineligible to operate a school bus in the state. The Ohio Department of Education will be notified of the refusal to test.

A driver who in any other way violates District prohibitions related to drugs and alcohol receives from the Board designee the names, addresses and telephone numbers of substance-abuse professionals and counseling and treatment programs available to evaluate and resolve drug- and alcohol-related problems. The employee is evaluated by a substance-abuse professional who determines what help, if any, the driver needs in resolving such a problem.

Any substance-abuse professional who determines that a driver needs assistance will not refer the driver to a private practice, person or organization in which he/she has a financial interest, except under circumstances allowed by law.

Before the driver is returned to safety-sensitive duties, if at all, the Board designee must ensure that the employee:

1. has been evaluated by a substance-abuse professional;
2. has complied with any recommended treatment;
3. has taken a return-to-duty drug and alcohol test with a result indicating an alcohol concentration level of less than 0.02 and
4. is subject to unannounced follow-up drug and alcohol tests. (The number and frequency of such follow-up testing is as directed by the substance-abuse professional and consists of at least six tests in the first 12 months following the driver's return to duty.)

In accordance with State law a driver may not operate a school bus when a drug or alcohol test indicates any measurable or detectable amount of a controlled substance.

(Approval date:)

**NOTE: THIS IS A REQUIRED REGULATION**

*Districts should reference their negotiated agreement when determining whether to keep or remove the permissive language in this regulation.*