

testing and being forced to urinate on command before their supervisors. Why should our students be treated any differently?

8. Issues Regarding Drugs And Alcohol Should Be Between Students And Parents, Not School Officials

Schools are meant to educate, not police, our children. School officials are not surrogate parents, and issues regarding underage drinking or substance abuse are best left to be handled between parents and their children.

9. Random Student Drug Testing Doesn't Determine Impairment, Recency Or Frequency Of Use

Urinalysis is not suitable for detecting drug impairment because the procedure only detects the presence of inert drug metabolites, not the presence of illicit drugs. According to the US Department of Justice, the presence of a drug metabolite, even when confirmed, “does not indicate ... recency, frequency, or amount of use; or impairment.” [7] In short, a positive test result tells parents and school officials, little if any substantive information, regarding pupils illicit drug use habits.

10. Most Schools Reject Random Student Drug Testing

Ninety-five percent of schools nationwide do not randomly drug test their student athletes and only two percent of schools randomly drug test students who participate in extracurricular activities other than athletics.

ENDNOTES:

[1] L. Johnston et al. *Drug Testing in Schools: Policies, Practices, and Associations With Student Drug Use*. 2003. University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research, Ann Arbor.
<http://www.rwjf.org/research/researchdetail.jsp?tid=1234&ia=131>

[2] National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine. *Under the Influence? Drugs and the American Workforce*. 1994. National Academy Press, Washington, DC.

[3] L. Goldberg et al. 2003. Drug testing athletes to prevent substance abuse: background and pilot study results of the SATURN (student athlete testing using random notification) study. *Journal of Adolescent Health* 32: 16-25.

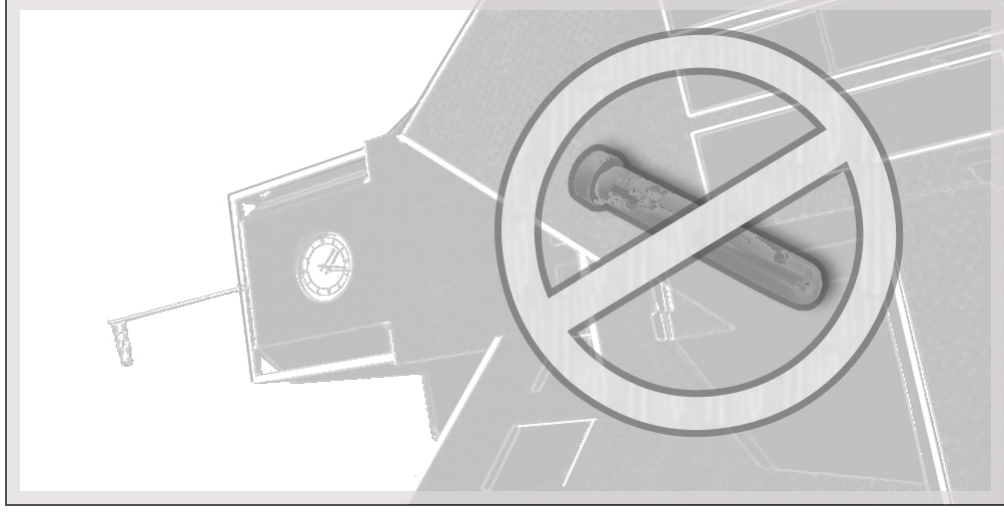
[4] Joseph Rowntree Foundation. *Random Drug Testing of Schoolchildren: A Shot in the Arm or a Shot in the Foot for Drug Prevention?* 2005. York Publishing Services, Layerthorpe.

[5] Joseph Rowntree Foundation. “Review highlights lack of evidence to support random drug testing in schools.” February 23, 2005.
<http://www.ifr.org.uk/pressroom/releases/230205.asp>

[6] Howard Taras. “Drug testing in schools: Can it cause harm?” May 22, 2003. San Diego Tribune.

[7] US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Drugs, Crime, and the Justice System* (NCJ-133652). December 1992.

JUST SAY NO TO RANDOM STUDENT DRUG TESTING



1. Random Student Drug Testing Fails to Deter Student Drug Use

According to the findings of the only national study to assess the impact of student drug testing on a national basis: “Drug testing, as practiced in recent years in American secondary schools, does not prevent or inhibit student drug use”[1] Investigators collected data from 894 schools and 94,000 students, and concluded that at every grade level studied – 8, 10, and 12 – students used illicit drugs at virtually identical rates in schools that drug tested versus those that did not. The US National Academy of Sciences further adds: “The preventive effects of drug testing have never been demonstrated. ... There is as of yet no conclusive scientific evidence from properly controlled studies that [random] drug testing programs widely discourage drug use or encourage drug rehabilitation.”[2]

2. Random Student Drug Testing Undermines Trust Between Students And Educators

Studies have shown that students exhibit greater negative attitudes toward school in districts that have implemented random student drug testing.[3] This is because random drug testing undermines the trust between pupils and staff in an educational setting, a consequence that may impact negatively on other aspects of students’ educational work.[4] Rather than presuming our school children innocent of illicit activity -- as most of them are -- suspicionless drug testing presumes them guilty until they prove themselves innocent. Is this the message we wish to send to our young people: that we don’t trust them?

3. Random Student Drug Testing May Lead To An Escalation Of Binge Drinking Or Hard Drug Use Among Pupils

According to a 2005 report by Britain’s distinguished Joseph Rowntree Foundation, a perverse and unintended consequence of random student drug testing is that it may “encourage some pupils to switch from the use of cannabis and other substances that can be traced a relatively long time after use, to drugs that are cleared from the body much more quickly,” including alcohol and more dangerous drugs like cocaine and heroin.[5]

4. Random Student Drug Testing Primarily Targets Those Pupils Least Likely To Have Drug Abuse Problems

Suspicionless drug testing targets primarily those students who are least likely to be using illicit drugs -- those engaged in extracurricular activities -- while at the same time creating a barrier for at-risk students who would benefit from participating in such activities, but may decline to do so out of fear of taking a drug test.

5. Random Student Drug Testing May Decrease Student Participation In Extracurricular Activities, And In Turn Encourage More At Risk Kids To Turn To Illicit Drugs And Alcohol

According to Dr. Howard Taras, chair of the Committee on School Health for the American Academy of Pediatrics, “[Random drug] screening may decrease involvement in extracurricular activities among students who regularly use or have once used drugs. Without such

engagement in healthy activities, adolescents are more likely to drop out of school, become pregnant, join gangs, pursue substance abuse, and engage in other risky behaviors.”[6] As a result, numerous health organizations – including the National Education Association, the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – oppose policies that would mandate randomly drug testing pupils who want to participate in after-school programs.

6. Random Student Drug Testing Is Expensive

Random student drug testing programs policies often cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to implement, which is why they typically rely on federal funding. Instead of throwing taxpayer money toward this ineffective and unproven policy, why not use these funds to pay for school counselors and extracurricular and after school activities that we know will help keep our children healthy and safe?

7. Random Student Drug Testing Is Invasive And Humiliating

Random student drug testing is a humiliating, invasive practice that runs contrary to the long-standing American principles of due process and presumption of innocence. It compels students to submit evidence against themselves and forfeit their privacy rights as a necessary requirement for public school attendance. Most teachers and school officials would balk at the idea of submitting to random drug