

**OFFERING OF STUDENT DRUG TESTING TO THOSE STUDENTS
EXHIBITING SIGNS OF BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE WHILE AT SCHOOL
AND/OR SCHOOL EVENTS**

The Board of Directors of the Wahkiakum School District is dedicated to providing an educational environment that is both safe and instructionally effective. While staff has a significant responsibility in making this happen, so also do students. It is the Board's belief that all students must remain free from the effects of alcohol and/or controlled substances while at school and school events, in order to ensure their maximum learning and appropriate participation. This reference does not include drugs prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner and used according to professional instructions.

Over the past several years we have accumulated data, primarily by student survey, that indicates that a significant number of our youth participate in at-risk behaviors involving alcohol and other drugs while at school and/or school events. Most recently, at our September, 2010, school board meeting a group of students made a presentation to the Board, in which the students described the problem as "serious and needing prompt attention." In addition, our county community network has identified teen substance abuse as one of its top three priorities in need of addressing.

The Board believes that a policy including the potential use of drug testing for students who exhibit signs of being under the influence while at school and/or school events will help those students remain drug free. In addition to providing a strong reason for students to say "NO" to drug use, testing also offers incentive for students using controlled substances to seek help. The Board believes in a program that is preventive, educational, and diagnostic rather than just punitive or disciplinary.

The Superintendent is directed to enact a drug testing program for all Wahkiakum students who exhibit signs of being under the influence of controlled substances while at school and/or school events. No student showing signs of being under the influence will be required to provide a urine specimen, however they will be offered the opportunity to provide one.

The Board of Directors believes this policy sends the strongest message possible to students and the community that illicit drug use is not acceptable and will not be tolerated at Wahkiakum Schools. It also provides an avenue of assistance for those students wishing to "get free" and/or "stay free" from drugs.

Adoption: April 20, 2011