

USE OF BREATHALYZERS

Policy

The Trumbull Board of Education, consistent with its mission, is committed to the promotion of healthful living and to the safety and well-being of our students. The increase in underage drinking coupled with incidents where students were found to have been drinking before or during high school dances and other high school events have heightened that concern. With that commitment in place, the high school will administer breathalyzer tests at school-sponsored dances and other selected events both on site and off site to all students and their guests in order to provide a safe and healthy environment for the students, staff and community-at-large when students are attending school functions.

Adopted: 09/04/07

Regulations

1. The high school will provide notice to parents and students that breathalyzers will be used at school sponsored dances and other selected events both on and off site. Notice of the use of breathalyzers will be included in The Student Handbook as well as permission slips requiring a parent signature to the specific events. In all situations, notice that a breathalyzer test will be administered will occur before the day of the school function.
2. The breathalyzers will be used in a passive mode to test each student and guest.
3. The breathalyzers will be maintained and calibrated per manufacturer's instructions.
4. Administrators will be trained in the proper use of the unit by appropriate personnel.
5. The breathalyzers will signal when a blood alcohol content (BAC) is greater than .020 percent.
6. The principal, house principals or deans will provide the test to each student and guest.
7. In the case of a student failing the procedure, he/she will retake the test with another breathalyzer unit in a private location and under administration supervision.
8. It may be necessary during high school-sponsored events to readminister a breathalyzer test to a student whose demeanor may give reasonable suspicion that he/she may be under the influence of alcohol. Such behavior may include the use or possession of alcohol; odor of an alcoholic beverage or the presence of an alcohol container; slurred speech, unsteady gait, lack of coordination, bloodshot or glazed eyes; marked change in personal behavior not attributable to other factors; behavior that is risky, aggressive or disruptive; a report by a third party of a student's consumption of alcohol; involvement in accidents or mishaps; or other such information as is reasonable to raise suspicion as to the consumption of alcohol. The student will be escorted to a private location where an administrator in the presence of a third party administrator or security officer will readminister the breathalyzer test. Should a student refuse to take the test, denies having consumed any alcohol and opts not to take the test, the administrators' judgment is upheld and the student will face consequences as outlined by the Districts' disciplinary procedures.

Regulations

9. In the case of failure on the retest, the student's parent or guardian will be notified. The high school administration will take appropriate action to insure the safety and well-being of the student and others and to remain consistent with school policy referencing these types of situations.

References

Connecticut General Statutes

Sec. 14-227b. Implied consent to test operator's blood, breath or urine. Testing procedures. License suspension. Hearing.

Trumbull Board of Education policies

Standard of Conduct, Policy Code: 5131

Drug and Alcohol, Policy Code: 6164.11