

Dan Stark . . .

Is it possible to drug test students and athletes without violating their constitutional rights? A rhetorical question that leads to the only possible answer of no. It is unbelievable and inconsiderate to even think that singling out a certain body of students for testing makes for a fair test. I am 100% against the drug test and screening process used at high schools.

It has been proven that drug related exams are aimed at athletes and only athletes...but what about the teachers and staff at our schools? They are the ones who teach our children...who's to say how a cracked out teacher or coach would teach or behave?

In my research at the Indiana Prevention Resource Center website, I found that since public education is a fundamental right, the student body shouldn't be subject to random drug testing and testing should only be limited to volunteers. Research also shows that athletes are less likely to use drugs because of the protective factor. The majority of drug tests are basic and only detect alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. Tests for major drugs are costly and can still produce false results which could end up costing an athletic scholarship or the expulsion of an honor student.

The reserved powers were written to insure that violations of this magnitude would not affect the individual rights we have as students and as American citizens....it's not just a test but a personal boundary crossed.

Stacy Smith . . .

Random drug testing should not be allowed in school. They are completely unfair about the way they do it. The only people they focus on are athletes. They don't even test the teachers and coaches. It also invades your privacy. They don't even have to suspect that you are doing drugs, yet they are still legally allowed to test you. Thirdly, it's not working, so it's wasting money; money that could be used on things that could really be used to better the school and the lives of our students.

Charlotte von Krause . . .

Whenever there is a reason for suspicion, students should be questioned by teachers, coaches or professionals. Some kids would more likely make a confession and be willing to receive help without the pressure of being drug tested each semester.

If a test does turn out positive, the best thing to do is provide advice to the student and parent...help to get them off drugs. Suspending that person or isolating them from any kind of team will only make it worse. The student may get even more frustrated and might get into more trouble. Teams have goals and being part of a team can be a good way for that student to notice that they are physically limited by using drugs. Taking part in activities may help the student learn how to handle stress without having to use drugs.

Logger Views

Drug Testing - What's up with that? Excerpts from BFHS Senior American Government Students, who were asked to tackle the issue of Drug Tests in Schools as part of their study of the Bill of Rights

Ashley Elmer . . .

Should drug tests be allowed in schools? Many people think they should simply because they don't want their children to be into drugs and this is one way they can make sure. Some people think they shouldn't because it invades their privacy.

I believe that schools should require their students to take drug tests because they are somewhat responsible for the students. Schools want their environment to be drug free. However, I also think that teachers and coaches should be required to take drug tests. If the students have to take drug tests, then so should the teachers; it's only fair.

It is difficult to tell who takes drugs...it could be the person you would never think of that does do drugs. If you don't do drugs than what's the difference? If you have nothing to hide then just do it! It's not that the teachers don't trust you, they just don't want to see you throw your life away on drugs. They want to see you become successful.

Kale Freeman . . .

I do not believe that high school athletes should partake in drug use, in fact, I don't believe that any one should use drugs. But, I strongly disagree with the drug testing that our athletes must endure in order to play a sport that they love.

Some of our students have learning disorders or diseases which require that they take medication. With the drug tests that they have to take, students must tell the school that they are on medication. This can be very embarrassing for some people. In fact, this could stop a person from even participating in an athletic event. If certain students found out about another student's disease or learning disorder, whichever it may be, the student with the disorder could be made fun of, picked on, or even beaten up. This could also make it more difficult for him or her to make friends.

People think that if they test athletes for drugs then it will discourage the use of drugs, but the people that use drugs just don't play sports. So you see, drug testing is just not needed.

Jacob Wetzel . . .

It is my opinion that drug testing should not be used for participation in extracurricular activities. Our amendment rights are violated, only the most advanced form of drug testing is effective, and random testing is ineffective.

The 4th Amendment declares "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by an oath or affirmation and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized." The 14th Amendment states "no states shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of the United States, nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of the law." These amendments state that drug testing for school activities are unconstitutional.

There are three main drug tests. The least expensive is the immunoassay test which works by changing colors when a reaction to a drug metabolite occurs. Other chemicals may produce false readings and can only detect one drug at a time. This test is widely used due to cost and ease, but is not very accurate. The Thin Layer Chromatography test works by color separation of chemical components, detecting multiple drugs and can produce false readings. Chemical masking reduces the accuracy of detection. Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrum is a third test that is very accurate. It can detect all drugs and masking agents and when done correctly reduces the chance of false readings. It's expensive, takes longer, requires a highly trained staff and sophisticated lab.

Random drug testing is useful if the school only tested students believed to use drugs, not by choosing them out of a hat.

Refina Azwan . . .

It is clear that drug testing students evokes many social, moral, and legal issues that remain unresolved. I personally agree with drug testing if it is only used for students who are suspected of using drugs by observing their behavior at school. We can't test all the students because there has to be a clear reason for the drug testing. Drug testing at school is to preserve safety and create a conducive learning environment.