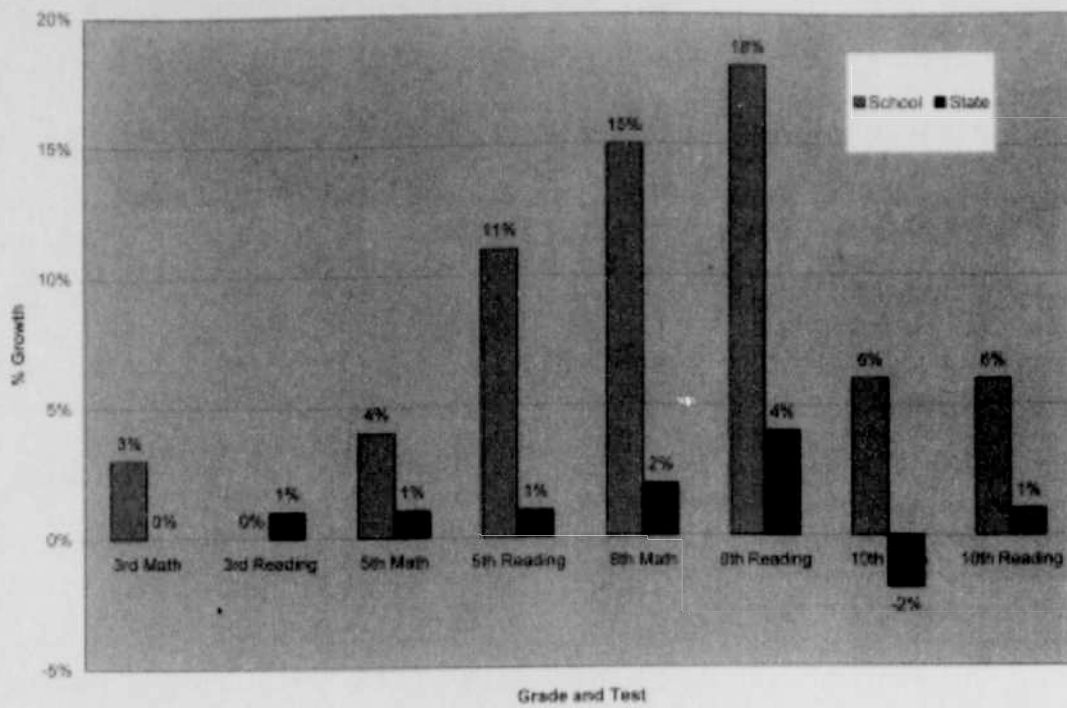


# School board passes tough, but compassionate drug, alcohol policies, testing procedures

% Change From 2004-05 to 2005-06



Benchmark changes from 2004-05 to 2005-06 in Morrow County and Oregon state.

is voluntary participation in a state certified drug and alcohol assistance program at the student's expense. The student will continue to practice, but will not play/participate in any contests or events during the suspension period. For athletic purposes only, following any suspension the student will be reinstated to full participation in the activity. The student will be reinstated to the same team (varsity, JV, etcetera) and will have full opportunity to play on that team by earning his way back through "hard work and a positive attitude." The student is not expected to be reinstated to a starting position, but he must have the opportunity to earn it back.

\*If the student does not choose option A, he will be suspended for the remainder of the activity season, will lose his letter and will lose any privileges of the activity.

\*For the second offense, the student will be suspended for all athletic or non-athletic programs for nine weeks of contests or events. He will not participate in activity programs until he has successfully completed a treatment program.

\*For the third offense the student will face immediate and full suspension from all athletic and non-athletic programs for one calendar year. He will not participate in activity programs or events until he has successfully completed a treatment program.

\*For the fourth offense he will be suspended from participation for the remainder of his junior/senior high school career.

**Tobacco:** If a student is determined to be in violation of the tobacco policy, for the first offense, he will be immediately suspended for at least two weeks or two contest or

event days, whichever is greater. The suspension will begin as soon as the school becomes aware of the violation. The student shall successfully complete a tobacco assessment prior to being reinstated to the program.

\*For the second or subsequent offenses, the student will face immediate and full suspension from the athletic or non-athletic program for the remainder of the activity season or for a period of not fewer than nine weeks, whichever is greater, and mandatory follow-up sessions with a qualified assessment counselor. Reinstatement of the student into other activity programs is contingent upon the student complying with the recommendations of the assessment professional.

For activities such as school plays, which have less than four events per year, administration may consider the date of admission or violation and determine suspension period is adequate sanction, provided the student meets other requirements of the policy.

**Drug testing procedures:** Rules related to the testing procedures will be made available in writing as part of the registration process and will be reviewed with students at the beginning of each school year. An authorization to test for drugs agreement will be signed by each student and his parent or guardian before the student will be allowed to participate in any athletic or non-athletic activity. The policy will be in effect the entire school year the student is enrolled at a Morrow County School District junior/senior high school and will govern the conduct of the athletic or non-athletic participant. Consequences for violations during the spring will continue into the next year.

\*Consent: Each

student involved in any athletic or non-athletic programs will be required to provide a signed consent form prior to joining the program. Both student and parent or guardian signatures are required.

\*Non-punitive nature of policy: Students will not be penalized academically for testing positive for illegal drugs under this policy, nor will athletic or non-athletic drug tests be documented in any student's academic records. The information gathered under this policy will only be disclosed to criminal or juvenile authorities to comply with court orders or subpoenas. In the event the district is legally compelled to provide this information, the district will notify parents or guardians at least 72 hours prior to releasing the information.

**Testing rules:** All athletic and non-athletic participants may be tested at any time during the school year at the discretion of the superintendent. Additionally, random testing will be conducted throughout the school year at the superintendent's discretion. A minimum of five percent, up to 100 percent of co-curricular participants will be tested at each test period as determined by the superintendent. Once the authorization to test for drugs agreement is signed, the student is eligible for random testing whether or not he is participating in an athletic or non-athletic activity at the time.

**Procedures for testing:** Selection for testing will be by random procedures from a pool of all students who have signed the authorization to test for drugs agreement. The superintendent will take precautions to "ensure the integrity and confidentiality of the selection process." No individual involved in the selection process will be able to identify students or to determine the selection of a particular student for testing.

\*The junior/senior high school principal will be notified on the day students

are selected for testing and will arrange for samples to be taken the same day. If a student is absent on a testing day and alternate will be tested. The absent student will be required to provide a sample at the nearest approved collections site within 24 hours upon return to school. Any student unable to provide a sample will be expected to remain at the collection area until a specimen is obtained. Those selected for testing will be given the option of doing so in private. Students who refuse a sample will be considered to have tested positive and will be subject to the procedures listed under the alcohol and drug violations section.

According to Daye Stone, Heppner High School Principal, each student who has signed the authorization is given a number. The students chosen to participate in a particular test are randomly selected by number by the testing company via computer to ensure that the selection process is fair and random.

\*Prescription medications: students on prescription medications may provide a copy of the prescription or a physician's written verification to the testing facility within 24 hours of the time a sample is collected. If a positive result is obtained, a lab review will be conducted to ensure that prescription medications are not interfering with positive results. The legal guardian will be contacted by the laboratory to confirm possible prescription medications. Such information will not be provided to the MCSD.

\*Scope of tests and confidentiality of results: All specimens will be collected and tested by a state-certified laboratory. Specimens may be collected at a local certified collection site for make-up or follow-up testing needs. Chain of custody procedures, as recommended by the laboratory, will be followed. Screening tests will test for "common illegal drugs of abuse." The superintendent will decide prior to selection of students which illegal drugs will be screened. Samples will not be screened for the presence of any substance other than an illegal drug or for the existence of any physical condition other than drug intoxication. Test results will be communicated only to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee and principal. Individual test information will be treated confidentially.

\*Positive results: Whenever a participant's results indicate the presence of drugs, a meeting will be scheduled with the student, the parents or guardian and the building principal.

The board discussed with Superintendent Mark

Burrows about increasing the number of students to be randomly tested for drugs and increasing the number of tests during the school year. They also asked Burrows to investigate the legality of testing students whose parents ask the district to test them.

Board member and Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack commented on the drug investigations, "This was a wake-up call for the students and the community." "We're starting the process of holding people accountable...There has to be some type of tough sanction," he added.

Also at the meeting, the board approved the second reading and adopted new technology policies restricting, monitoring and, in some cases, denying the use of telephones, cell phones, computers, Internet, e-mail, fax machines, broadcast media and any other manner of communication using electronic transmission for students and staff. The policy was designed to protect children from obscene or pornographic material or anything else that may be deemed harmful to minors. The policy limits the systems' purposes to advancement and promotion of research, learning and teaching.

Failure to abide by the district policy and administrative regulations governing use of the district's electronic technology system could result in suspension or revocation of access to the system. Student violations will result in discipline, up to and including expulsion. Staff violations will also result in discipline, up to and including dismissal. Violations of law will be reported to law enforcement officials and fees, fines or other charges may be imposed.

Following an executive session, the board gave Burrows a show of support by approving an extension of his contract to three years. They also gave him an additional one percent raise, over and above the two-percent raise he was already slated to receive with his contract renewal. Board members indicated that they were pleased with his performance, especially his communication skills and community outreach and dedication to board goals and increasing students' test scores. The board plans to discuss implementing an incentive program for administrators, including principals and the superintendent, at an upcoming work session.

In other business, the board:

-heard a report by Anna Browne, a teacher at Windy River Elementary, who applied for and received a grant to implement a writing program at her school.

-heard a report by Dirk Dirksen, Riverside High School Principal, on the school credit recovery program implemented during the summer. Dirksen

said that of 60 kids who had failed classes and attended the program, only four didn't complete the process. "It wasn't designed to be a lot of fun," said Dirksen.

-approved the contract with the Morrow County Unified Recreation District to fund extracurricular activities in the district. Burrows said this year's contract is exactly the same as last year's.

-heard from Burrows that the staffing has been completed for this upcoming fall.

-learned that budget committee vacancies include Position #1-Lisanne Currin; Position #3-Keith Lewis; Position #6-Mike Armato; and Position #7-Dean Mason. Currin was nominated to fill her current position for the upcoming term.

-heard the Average Yearly Progress report by Burrows on MCSD results for the No Child Left Behind Act, a federally mandated program. Burrows said that Heppner Elementary School, Sam Boardman Elementary School, Windy River Elementary, Heppner Junior/Senior High School and Irrigon Elementary all met the standards, however, A.C. Houghton Elementary, Riverside Junior/Senior High School and Irrigon Junior/Senior High School did not meet the standards, which resulted in the district also not meeting the standards. Burrows said that Riverside had "tremendous growth" but did not meet the standards because of special education and English Language Learner results. Burrows added that ELL students should not be confused with Hispanic students who passed standards in reading and math. He said that A.C. Houghton just narrowly missed the meeting the standards.

-heard a report from Burrows on state benchmark data for MCSD, which indicate that students in the MCSD exceeded state levels through the fourth grade, have "respectable" scores in the fifth and sixth grades, but scores fall off in grades seven through 10, although those scores have improved greatly. Burrows said that MCSD students' results surpass other districts with similar demographics, such as Umatilla, Hermiston, Gervais and Woodburn.

-accepted the following resignations: Maryanne Anthony, ACH second grade teacher; Melanie Hall, RHS special ed assistant.

-approved the following employment: Colleen Grigg, IJSH special ed teacher; Clara Beas, SBE English as a Second Language teacher; Andrew Johnson, IHS technology/business teacher; Kelly Phillips, ACH elementary teacher.

-heard the following announcements: Aug. 21-first staff school day; Aug. 23-inservice; Aug. 24-board work session; Aug. 28-first day of school for students; Sept. 4-Labor Day holiday; Sept. 11-next board meeting, HHS; Sept. 22-23-collective bargaining workshop; Nov. 9-12-OSBA fall convention.

**Don't Miss Our...**

**10th ANNUAL MICROBREW BEER & WINE TASTING!**

**THURSDAY, AUG. 17th**

**6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

**MORROW COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

**JET TEA FOR THE KIDS!**

*Barbecue Dinner by John Gochauer: Serving Crazy Kabobs & Oysters Galore!*

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**ESTATE / YARD SALE**

**235 1/2 Linden Way, Heppner**

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**August 18-20 (Friday through Sunday)**

**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Furniture, China Hutch, Dressers, Jewelry, Sleeping Bags, Bedding, Bed, Tables, Craft Items, Puzzles, Pictures, Frames, Kitchen Items, Knickknacks, Avon Bottles, Baby Items, Brand-Name Girls' Clothes (from infant to size 6)

**The Willow Creek Water Park will be CLOSED**

**Friday, Aug. 18 from 7-9 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 19-20 from 1-5 p.m.**

**The Water Park will be OPEN**

**Friday, Aug. 18 from 1-5 p.m.**