

“One of the best ways to prevent addiction is to stop it before it starts. Drug abuse begins at increasingly early ages in America, so effective prevention strategies must be focused on young people. Because it targets at-risk youngsters, student drug testing is one of the most promising new prevention approaches.”

Robert L. DuPont, President of the Institute for Behavior & Health

Administrative Toolkit

A student drug testing program can only be successful when:

- It is implemented as a tool for a preventative not punitive approach to drug abuse.
- It is incorporated as a part of a larger comprehensive drug-free program.
- It adapts to a school's unique environment involving students, parents, teachers, administrators and the local community.

This toolkit provides detailed information on the steps necessary to implement a successful student drug testing program.

Those steps are:

- 1: Identifying the Need
- 2: Presenting the Idea and Establishing Relationships
- 3: Writing Policies and Procedures
- 4: Starting and Evaluating the Program

Results from successful Student Drug Testing Programs include:

- After 2 years of testing, Hunterdon Central Regional High School in New Jersey saw a reduction in cocaine use by seniors from 13 to 4 percent with the institution of a mandatory program.¹
- Schools in Autauga County, Alabama experienced decreases in marijuana use from 19 to 12 percent after implementation of a voluntary student drug testing program.²
- One private school in the South implemented mandatory student drug testing for all of its students. When testing began, 3.4 percent of them tested positive. After the second year, the number of positive tests dropped to 2.1 percent.³
- After the implementation of a mandatory student drug testing program at a Southwestern public school, there was a reduction in disciplinary referrals, improved student productivity, and a lower number of positive tests. According to the Superintendent: “It was a complete change in atmosphere!”⁴
- The Student Athlete Testing Using Random Notification (SATURN) project, reported that of the 25 percent of students surveyed who used marijuana and of the 60 percent who said they used alcohol, only 9 percent and 12 percent respectively would continue use if mandatory drug testing were present in their schools.⁵

¹ Office of National Drug Control Policy. What You Need to Know About Drug Testing in Schools. U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C. 2002. Publication # NCJ 195522. P13.

² ONDCP, P3.

³ DuPont, Robert, Teresa Campbell, and Jacqueline Mazza. US Dept. of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program. Report of a Preliminary Study: Elements of a Successful School-Based Student Drug Testing Program. Rockville, MD: Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc., 2002. P77.

⁴ DuPont, P8.

⁵ Goldberg, L., D. Elliot, E. Moe, K. Kuchl et al. "Acceptability and Potential Deterrent Effects of Drug Testing." Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise. 31:5 (1999): S122-123.

⁶ Walters, John. Foreward. Office of National Drug Control Policy's What you need to know about drug testing in schools. U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C. 2002. Publication #NCJ 195522. Pii.