

CSBA Sample

Board Policy

Drug And Alcohol Testing For School Bus Drivers

BP 4112.42 4212.42, 4312.42

Personnel

Note: State and federal law (Vehicle Code 34520; 49 CFR 382.101-382.605) require that any district employing school bus drivers establish a drug and alcohol testing program, with specified components, applicable to bus drivers and any other drivers of a commercial motor vehicle weighing over 26,000 pounds or designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver. All testing must be conducted in accordance with 49 CFR 40.1-40.413. For further information, see the web sites of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Note: In addition, Vehicle Code 34520.3 requires drivers of school transportation vehicles (i.e., vehicles that are not school buses, student activity buses, or youth buses and are used by the district for the primary purpose of transporting children), such as a van, to participate in the testing program to the same extent as required by law for school bus drivers. The Legislative Counsel has issued an opinion that Vehicle Code 34520.3 applies only to employees whose primary job is transportation. The district should consult legal counsel as necessary to determine applicability of this law to district employees.

Note: The district's drug and alcohol testing program is subject to compliance inspections conducted by the CHP. It is recommended that the district review the CHP's Controlled Substances and Alcohol Testing Compliance Checklist to assess whether its program fulfills legal requirements.

The Governing Board desires to ensure that district-provided transportation is safe for students, staff, and the public. To that end, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a drug and alcohol testing program designed to prevent the operation of buses or the performance of other safety-sensitive functions by a driver who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, including a driver of a school bus, student activity bus, or other school transportation vehicle or any other employee who holds a commercial driver's license which is necessary to perform duties related to district employment.

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

(cf. 3542 - School Bus Drivers)

(cf. 3543 - Transportation Safety and Emergencies)

(cf. 4020 - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace)

(cf. 4112.41/4212.41/4312.41 - Employee Drug Testing)

A driver shall not report for duty or remain on duty when he/she has used any drug listed in 21 CFR 1308.11. A driver is also prohibited from reporting for duty or remaining on duty when

he/she has used any drug listed in 21 CFR 1308.12-1308.15, unless he/she is using the drug under the direction of a physician who has advised him/her that the substance will not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a bus. In addition, a driver shall not consume alcohol while on duty or for four hours prior to on-duty time. (49 CFR 382.201-382.209, 382.213)

Note: 49 USC 31306 and 49 CFR 382.301-382.311 require that certain types of tests be part of the district's drug and alcohol testing program. See the accompanying administrative regulation for requirements applicable to each test.

Note: Pursuant to 49 CFR 382.301, the district may, but is not required to, conduct pre-employment alcohol testing. The following paragraph should be revised by districts that choose to conduct such testing.

The district's testing program for drivers shall include pre-employment drug testing and reasonable suspicion, random, post-accident, return-to-duty, and follow-up drug and alcohol testing of drivers. (49 USC 31306; 49 CFR 382.301-382.311)

Note: Pursuant to 49 CFR 40.11, districts are responsible for implementing the drug and alcohol testing program. They may do this using their own employees, contracting for services, or joining together in a consortium with other employers. The following optional paragraph provides that the district will contract for such services and may be revised by districts that use alternative methods.

The Board shall contract for testing services upon verifying that the personnel are appropriately qualified and/or certified and that testing procedures conform to federal regulations.

Except as otherwise provided by law, the Superintendent or designee shall not release individual test results or medical information about a driver to a third party without the driver's specific written consent. (49 CFR 40.321)

Consequences Based on Test Results

Any driver who refuses to take a required drug or alcohol test, tests positive for drugs, or is found to have a blood alcohol concentration level that exceeds the levels specified in law shall be removed from performing safety-sensitive functions in accordance with 49 CFR 40.23 and 382.211.

Note: Pursuant to 49 CFR 40.21 and 382.119, before temporarily removing a driver from safety-sensitive functions, the district must receive verification of the test results from a licensed physician certified as a medical review officer, unless a waiver of this requirement has been obtained from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

No driver shall be temporarily removed from the performance of safety-sensitive functions based only on a laboratory report of a confirmed positive test before the certified medical review officer has completed verification of the test results, unless the district has obtained a waiver. (49 CFR 40.21, 382.107, 382.119)

Not later than five days after receiving notification of the test result or refusal to comply, the Superintendent or designee shall report any refusal, failure to comply, or positive test result to the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) using a form approved by the DMV. (Vehicle Code 13376)

Note: Pursuant to Vehicle Code 13376, upon receiving a report of a driver's refusal, failure to comply, or positive test result, the California Department of Motor Vehicles will revoke the driver certificate or refuse to approve an initial application for a certificate. An exception exists for a driver who complies with a rehabilitation or return-to-duty program that meets the requirements of federal regulations. For purposes of retaining his/her certificate, the driver may participate in such a program only once within a three-year period.

Note: The following paragraph is optional. Pursuant to 49 CFR 40.289, the district is not required to provide education and treatment services to any driver. However, if the district offers the driver an opportunity to return to work following a violation, then it must ensure that the driver receives an evaluation by a qualified substance abuse professional and successfully complies with the evaluation recommendations. Responsibility for payment for evaluation and services is to be determined by the district and driver and may be governed by a collective bargaining agreement and health care benefits.

Any driver who refuses, fails to comply, or has a positive test result may be referred to an education and treatment program that meets the requirements of 49 CFR 40.281-40.313. If the substance abuse professional recommends that ongoing services are needed to assist the driver to maintain sobriety or abstinence from drug use, the Superintendent or designee shall require the driver to participate in the recommended services as part of a return-to-duty agreement and shall monitor his/her compliance. Any drop from a rehabilitation or return-to-duty program or a subsequent positive test result shall be reported to the DMV. (Vehicle Code 13376; 49 CFR 40.285, 40.287, 40.303, 382.605)

(cf. 4159/4259/4359 - Employee Assistance Programs)

(cf. 4161/4261 - Leaves)

(cf. 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave)

(cf. 4161.9/4261.9/4361.9 - Catastrophic Leave Program)

(cf. 4261.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

A driver who has violated federal drug and alcohol regulations may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal in accordance with law, administrative regulations, and the district's collective bargaining agreement.

(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

Voluntary Self-Identification

***Note: The following section is for use by districts that choose to establish a voluntary

self-identification policy or program, pursuant to 49 CFR 382.121, which relieves drivers who admit alcohol or drug misuse from the federal requirements for referral, evaluation, and treatment contained in 49 CFR 40.281-40.313. If the district chooses to establish such a program, it is mandated to adopt a written policy containing the provisions specified in items #1-3 below. Pursuant to 49 CFR 382.121, the district's program may also include employee monitoring and non-DOT follow-up testing. If the district chooses to incorporate these elements, it should add them to this list.***

Whenever a driver admits to alcohol or drug misuse under the district's voluntary self-identification program, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure all of the following: (49 CFR 382.121)

1. No adverse action shall be taken against the driver by the district.
2. The driver shall be allowed sufficient opportunity to seek evaluation, education, or treatment to establish control over his/her drug or alcohol problem.
3. The driver shall be permitted to participate in safety-sensitive functions only after:
 - a. Successfully completing an education or treatment program, as determined by a drug and alcohol abuse evaluation expert, such as an employee assistance professional, substance abuse professional, or qualified drug and alcohol counselor
 - b. Undergoing a return-to-duty test with a result indicating an alcohol concentration of less than 0.02 and/or a verified negative result for drug use

A driver who admits to alcohol or drug misuse shall not be subject to federal requirements related to referral, evaluation, and treatment, provided that he/she does not self-identify in order to avoid drug or alcohol testing, makes the admission prior to performing a safety-sensitive function, and does not perform a safety-sensitive function until he/she has been evaluated and has successfully completed education or treatment requirements in accordance with program guidelines. (49 CFR 382.121)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards

GOVERNMENT CODE

8355 Drug-free workplace; employee notification

VEHICLE CODE

13376 Driver certificates; revocation or suspension

34500-34520.5 Safety regulations

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 13

1200-1293 Motor carrier safety, especially:

1213.1 Placing drivers out-of-service

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 41
8101-8106 Drug-Free Workplace Act
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 49
31306 Alcohol and drug testing
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 21
1308.11-1308.15 Controlled substances
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 49
40.1-40.413 Procedures for transportation workplace drug and alcohol testing programs
382.101-382.605 Drug and alcohol use and testing; especially:
382.205 On-duty use
382.207 Pre-duty use
382.209 Use following an accident

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL PUBLICATIONS

Controlled Substances and Alcohol Testing Compliance Checklist, 2007

What is CSAT? Controlled Substances and Alcohol Testing, 2005

WEB SITES

California Highway Patrol: <http://www.chp.ca.gov>

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov>

U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance:
<http://www.dot.gov/ost/dapc>