

**DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING OF SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS  
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this rule is to provide guidance to supervisors and notice to drivers concerning the implementation of alcohol and controlled substance testing required by federal regulations. It does not attempt to provide a complete overview of or to limit or modify federal regulations, which should be referred to for more detailed information concerning testing procedures and consequences. The text of the federal regulations is attached and should be consulted in all cases where questions as to implementation of this rule arise.

**I. Program Administrator**

The Superintendent and Principal have been designated as the Alcohol/Drug Testing Program Administrators. Questions concerning the testing program are to be directed to the Program Administrators.

**II. Substances Tested For**

References to tests in these rules include both drug and alcohol tests unless the context specifies otherwise. The terms "drugs" and "controlled substances" are interchangeable and have the same meaning. Drugs refer to marijuana, cocaine, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), and amphetamines (including met amphetamines).

**III. Drivers Subject to Testing**

All drivers who must have a Commercial Drivers License to perform their duties will be subject to the alcohol and/or drug testing as outlines in this rule and required by 49 CFR, Part 382.

**IV. Compliance with Rule and Regulation**

All employees must comply with this rule and federal regulations during any portion of the work day that they perform any duties relating to driving, including, but not limited to: driving; waiting to be dispatched; inspecting and servicing equipment; supervising, performing or assisting in loading and unloading; repairing or obtaining and waiting for help with a disabled vehicle; performing driver requirements related to accidents.

**V. Prohibited Conduct**

Drivers shall not:

1. Report to and/or remain on duty with alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater;
2. Possess any alcohol while on duty;
3. Use any alcohol within four hours before going on duty;
4. Use any alcohol while on duty;

5. Use any alcohol for eight hours after an accident which will require the driver to be tested for alcohol, or until tested after such an accident, whichever occurs first;
6. Refuse to submit to a required alcohol and/or controlled substances test;
7. Report to or remain on duty when using any controlled substance, except when used under a physician's orders and the physician has informed the driver that the use will not affect the safe operation of a vehicle.
8. Report to or remain on duty if he/she has tested positive for controlled substance.

#### **IV. Required Tests**

1. **Pre-employment.** Drug testing will be administered before a driver performs any safety-sensitive functions for the Department. The test will be required of an applicant only after he/she has been offered a position. Employment is conditional upon receiving negative drug test results.

2. **Random.** Tests shall be conducted on a random basis at unannounced times throughout the year. Random tests for alcohol shall be conducted just before, during or just after the performance of safety-sensitive functions. The number of random alcohol tests annually will be at least 25% of the average number of driver positions. The number of random drug tests annually will be at least 50% of the average number of driver positions. Drivers will be selected by a scientifically valid random process, and each driver shall have an equal chance of being tested each time selections are made.

3. **Post-accident.** Drivers will be tested as soon as practicable after any accident which:

- 1) involves the loss of human life; or
- 2) involves the driver receiving a citation for a moving traffic violation as a result of the accident.

4. **Reasonable suspicion.** Tests shall be conducted when a properly trained supervisor or Department official has reasonable suspicion that the driver has violated the alcohol or drug prohibitions as provided in this rule, except Section V.2. This reasonable suspicion will be based on specific observations concerning the driver's appearance, behavior, speech or body odors. The observations may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.

Alcohol tests will be authorized for reasonable suspicion only if the required observations are made during, just before, or just after the period of the work day when the driver must meet alcohol prohibitions. If an alcohol test is not administered within two hours of a determination of reasonable suspicion, the Department will prepare and maintain a record explaining why this was not done. Attempts to conduct alcohol tests will terminate after eight hours, and the Department shall record the reasons for not administering the test.

A supervisor or Department official who makes a finding of reasonable suspicion also must make a signed written record of his/her observations leading to a reasonable suspicion drug or alcohol test. Such written record must be completed within 24 hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the test are released, whichever is earlier.

5. **Return to duty.** A drug or alcohol test shall be conducted when a driver who has violated the Department's drug or alcohol prohibition returns to performing safety-sensitive duties.

Employees whose conduct involved drugs cannot return to duty in a safety-sensitive function until the return-to-duty drug test produces a verified negative result.

Employees whose conduct involved alcohol cannot return to duty in a safety-sensitive function until the return-to-duty alcohol test produces a verified result that meets federal and Department standards.

6. **Follow-up.** A driver who violates one of the prohibitions listed in Section V above and is subsequently identified by a substance abuse professional as needing assistance in resolving a drug or alcohol problem shall be subject to unannounced follow-up testing as directed by the substance abuse professionals in accordance with law. Follow-up alcohol testing shall be conducted just before, during or just after the time when the driver is performing safety-sensitive functions. A driver who has previously tested positive, has been identified as needing assistance in resolving a drug or alcohol problem and has returned to duty must submit to at least six (6) alcohol and/or controlled substance tests during the first year after returning to work. Follow-up tests will be unannounced and may continue for up to sixty (60) months after returning to work.

## **VII. Training for Supervisors**

The program Administrator has the authority to determine whether reasonable suspicion exists to require a driver to undergo a test. Before making any such determination, they shall each receive at least 60 minutes of training on alcohol misuse and at least 60 minutes of additional training on controlled substances use. The training shall cover the physical, behavioral, speech and performance indicators of probable alcohol misuse and use of controlled substances.

## **VIII. Testing Procedures**

The Department will arrange to have testing performed by persons at facilities having adequate expertise to ensure that testing will be performed in a manner to protect the driver and the integrity of the testing processes, safeguard the validity of the test results, and ensure that those results are attributed to the correct driver.

All testing for alcohol misuse will be conducted by trained Breath Alcohol Technicians (BATs). All testing to determine alcohol use or misuse will utilize measurement of expired breath with an Evidential Breath Test Device (EBT).

## **IX. Requirement to Submit to Tests**

All drivers who are required by federal regulations to be subjected to tests must fulfill that requirement when so directed by the Program Administrators. Once a driver has been directed to submit to a test, he/she will proceed directly to the testing area. Drivers must comply with the lawful requests of the technician performing the test. Failure to comply with the regulations or this rule will be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

## **X. Refusal to Test**

The following circumstances will be construed as refusing to submit to a test:

1. Failure to report to the designated testing area immediately after being notified to submit to a required test; or
2. Failure to provide a sufficient sample to be tested, either breath or urine as the case may be, unless medically determined impossible to do so.

### **IX. Records**

Employee drug and alcohol test results and records shall be maintained under strict confidentiality and released only in accordance with law. Upon written request, a driver shall receive copies of any records pertaining to his/her use of drugs or alcohol, including any records pertaining to his/her drug or alcohol tests. Records shall be made available to a subsequent employer or other persons identified by the driver as directed by the written request or consent of the driver.

### **XII. Prescription Drugs**

Drivers shall inform their supervisors if at any time they are using a controlled substance which their physician has prescribed for therapeutic purposes. Such a substance may be used only if the physician has advised the driver that it will not adversely affect his/her ability to safely operate a vehicle.

### **XIII. Enforcement**

1. General Rule. Any driver who violates this rule or the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, 49 C.F.R. Part 382, may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal, except to the extent the employee driver must first be allowed treatment and/or an opportunity for participation in a rehabilitation program under 26 M.R.S.A. subsection 685 or other law. This rule is based on the general authority of the Rangeley School Department as an employer.
2. Removal from duty. Any driver who tests positive for alcohol concentration of 0.02 or above or drug use shall immediately be relieved from duty, without pay, for a minimum of 24 hours. No such driver shall be returned to duty, if at all, until the provisions of this rule and the federal regulations have been satisfied.
3. Disciplinary action. An employee receiving a test indicating a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 or above or a positive test for controlled substances shall be dismissed from employment unless the employee must first be allowed treatment and/or an opportunity for participation in a rehabilitation program under 26 M.R.S.A. subsection 685 or other law, or if the Superintendent determines that compelling mitigating circumstances exist. A test indicating a blood alcohol concentration of 0.02 but less than 0.04 shall be grounds for discipline, up to and including dismissal, except as limited by law. The rules in this subsection are based on the general authority of the Rangeley School Department as an employer.
4. Referral. A driver who violates Department prohibitions listed in Section V above will be given the names, addresses and telephone numbers of substance abuse professionals and counseling programs available to evaluate and resolve drug and alcohol related problems. The driver shall be evaluated by a substance abuse professional who shall determine what assistance, if any, the employee needs in resolving problems associated with drug use or alcohol misuse.

5. Conditions or Reinstatement. Before a driver is returned to safety-sensitive duties, if at all, the driver must:

1. Have been evaluated by a substance abuse professional.
2. Have complied with any recommended treatment.
3. Have taken a return-to-duty test with a result indicating an alcohol concentration level or than 0.02 and/or a verified negative tests for controlled substances.

**XIV. Information**

The Program Administrators will provide each driver subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations with a copy of this rule. In addition, the Program Administrator will provide printed material which describes the effects of alcohol and/or controlled substances use or abuse on the individual's health, work and personal life, as well as information on the signs and symptoms of an alcohol or controlled substances program.

Each driver must sign a statement certifying that he/she has received a copy of the above materials. Any driver who wishes to seek personal and confidential advise on an alcohol and/or controlled substances problem may contact the school nurse.

**XV. Notification**

The Department will notify the driver of the results of the pre-employment drug test, if the driver requests such results within 60 calendar days of being notified of the disposition of his/her employment application.

The Department will notify a driver of the results of a drug test if the test results are verified positive. The Department will also tell the driver which controlled substances were verified as positive.

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