
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill allows school districts to adopt a policy for drug and alcohol testing of 7-12 grade students. If the policy is adopted, school districts have four options for testing. Each year, the district board of education must review its drug policy and continue, discontinue or modify the policy. Parents are to be notified each year of the revised drug policy, by mail, along with a drug awareness and prevention pamphlet, and a consent form for the child to participate in the drug-testing program. Only those students, whose parents sign and return the consent form, can be tested.

State Fiscal Effects

Section 3318.887 states the State Board of Education may develop a model educational pamphlet, concerning drug use and adolescents, and require districts to utilize the model. The Board of Education would incur administration costs in the development and distribution of such a pamphlet.

Local Fiscal Effects

Local schools that decide to participate incur expenses in two areas: administration and implementation. The school district must designate a drug-testing liaison per section 3313.881.3. The liaison must already be an employee of the district. However additional responsibilities will increase expenses or shift duties. The second component to administrative costs is the annual review and distribution of the district's drug testing policy. Once the review is completed, the school district must distribute the policy, a drug abuse awareness pamphlet, and a consent form to all parents of students in grades 7-12.

- Costs for printing and distributing the educational drug pamphlet and drug policy are:
 $(\$0.50 \text{ for printed materials}) \times (\$0.32 \text{ for postage}) \times (1431 \text{ number of 7-12}^{\text{th}} \text{ grade students in average district}) = \1173.42

Expenses in the area of review depend on how closely the program is scrutinized and how much modification is required year to year. If the board adopts a drug testing policy it has four options for testing:

- Every student may be tested on a periodic basis;
- A specified percentage of all students, selected randomly may be tested periodically;
- If drug or alcohol use is suspected, a student may be tested;
- Each student who has participated drug or alcohol abuse counseling may be tested periodically as recommended by the counselor.

Expenses vary greatly depending on which policy is adopted.

The second area of expenses is implementation. The adopted testing policy will dictate the cost to the school district. School districts have the option of contracting the testing and analysis out to an approved laboratory or conducting the testing on premises. Experts in the field of drug analysis estimate that after purchasing equipment and obtaining proper staffing levels, the costs conducting on premises urine analysis to school districts are prohibitive. Breath alcohol analysis can be accomplished for a reasonable cost. Machines range from \$1000-\$5000 with \$.25 per mouthpiece, \$300 year for maintenance and calibration, and \$3 a roll for triplicate paper. Training is also required for the individual collecting and analyzing breath samples. Typical instruction would require a full day of training.

Which substances a school district choose to test for also affects expenses. Most substances outlined in section 3313.881.1 are included in the standard eight-panel test. Nicotine and Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD) are separate tests that require incurring extra costs.

The costs for each test are as follows:

- \$25 per breath alcohol screening
- \$25 per LSD screening
- \$30 per 8 panel drug screen
- \$12 per Nicotine screen

These costs are based on contracted testing and analysis through an approved laboratory.

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