



Yadkin County Schools

Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

A Letter Concerning Yadkin County Schools Random Drug Testing Program Todd Martin, Superintendent, Yadkin County Schools

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Up until a few years ago, Yadkin County Schools had a random drug testing program in place. Those students who participated in high school athletics and those students who drove to school were subject to random drug testing. Unfortunately, this program was a casualty of budget reductions.

We have been working to reinstate a random drug testing program. We recognize that young people everywhere can face tremendous peer pressure to experiment with drugs and alcohol. As the father of two Yadkin County high school students who participate in athletics, I want my children to know that it is okay to say no and that being a part of a drug testing program provides them with a way to say no easily to those who would apply peer pressure to try drugs or alcohol.

However, we also recognize that this is not confined to high school students. Therefore, our program would also include middle school students who participate in athletics. As a parent of a middle school student, I want my son to be safe from alcohol and drugs and I believe that having a program like this in place can be an effective deterrent to risky behaviors. Additionally, as superintendent of this school district, I want to be sure we are doing everything we can to ensure our students are safe.

This letter explains the basic components of our program. It also has information about two upcoming meetings about the program that are open to students and parents.

The following are facts about our program.

- This program is designed to help students and is not intended to be punitive in nature
- If a test comes back as positive, only a parent/guardian, the student, and a Turning Point drug prevention specialist are notified so that help can be provided - school personnel are not notified unless the student fails to complete a drug prevention session or a student tests positive a second time
- Students are selected **at random** for testing from the pool of eligible students
- Random testing will occur up to three times over the course of a school year
- The test is a urine test and all standards of privacy and decency will be maintained
- The test will screen for amphetamines, cocaine, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), and tetrahydrocannabinol (thc, marijuana)
- Personnel from Coe Management will administer the random testing program

- This program is intended to screen for the presence of drugs or alcohol but it does not take the place of our expected behavioral standards or our code of student conduct - if a student **brings, consumes or distributes drugs or alcohol on one of our school campuses**, school discipline will be applied and law enforcement will be notified
- Not all student athletes and student drivers will be chosen - students are chosen at random
- If a student tests positive, he/she will need to complete a Drug Education Program provided free of charge by Turning Point Behavioral Health Services
- This program is not limited to student athletes and student drivers - if parents/guardians wish to “opt in” their students who do not participate in athletics or drive to school, they may do so

We have worked to design our program to help our students. We are not doing this to try to catch students doing something wrong and to punish them. Instead, it is my hope that we can do some things to help keep our students safe.

I plan to hold two meetings next week for any student, parent or guardian who has questions or would like to know more about our random drug testing program. The first meeting will be Wednesday, October 24 at 6:30 PM in the Starmount High School auditorium. The second meeting will be Thursday, October 25 at 6:00 PM in the Forbush High School media center. Additionally, if you have questions prior to then, please feel free to reach out to via email at todd.martin@yadkin.k12.nc.us.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Also, I want to thank our parents, guardians and our communities at large. It is obvious that the people of Yadkin County care about our children and want them to go to school in an environment that is safe.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Todd Martin
Superintendent