

Students

Breathalyzer Testing

The Stafford Board of Education supports the use of both passive alcohol screening (“PAS”) devices and breathalyzers during the school day or at school-sponsored events to deter the use of alcohol by students and to promote the health and safety of all students.

Passive alcohol sensors and breathalyzers can be used by the administration and/or designated school personnel to (1) confirm a reasonable suspicion that a particular student has used or is under the influence of alcohol at school during the school day or at a co-curricular school-sponsored event and/or (2) systematically screen students attending co-curricular school-sponsored events for possible alcohol use.

Definitions: The *passive alcohol sensor* device, also known as “PAS,” is a non-invasive high-speed breath alcohol-screening instrument, which can be used as a “sniffer” for overt or covert alcohol detection. This device may be used to sample a student’s breath in order to detect alcohol use, with results reported as either “positive” or “negative.” A *breathalyzer* is a device that detects and measures alcohol in expired air so as to determine the concentration of alcohol in a student’s blood.

Only administrators and/or designated school personnel will be trained in the use of the PAS device and/or breathalyzer. All testing instruments shall be properly calibrated and will be checked for accuracy and for full calibration in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications. Testing of students using the breathalyzers will be conducted in a separate area, to the extent practicable, to maintain student privacy.

Results from a PAS device or breathalyzer will be maintained in a confidential manner, and released in accordance with district policy and state and federal law.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-19 Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Training of personnel.

10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student. Surrender or physical evidence obtained from students.

10-221(d) Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures re sale or possession of alcohol or controlled drugs.

21a-240 Definitions dependency producing drugs.

21a-243 Regulation re schedules of controlled substances.

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New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)

Veronia School District 47J v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646 (1995)

Todd v. Rush County Schools, 133 F.3D 984 (7th Cir. 1998)

Knox County Education Association v. Knox County Board of Education,
158 F 3D 361, 385-386 (6th Cir. 1998)