



# Fairbury Public Schools

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## PRESS RELEASE - THE ADDITION OF NICOTINE TO OUR TESTING PROTOCOL

Since the 2016-17 School year, Fairbury Public Schools has implemented a random drug-testing program for all 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade students who participate in all extracurricular activities. These include activities such as Spanish Club, FFA, Speech, and all sports.

Our focus is to be proactive and to provide students with more tools to say "No!" to peer pressure. Over the last 2 years, we have seen a 300% increase in disciplinary incidents involving smoking/vaping. This was our impetus for adding nicotine to our testing protocol.

Here are some specifics from our experiences the last 2 years:

- For a student to participate, they must turn in a waiver form agreeing to the testing.
- Sports Safe, from Ohio is the company we work with. They, in turn, contract with a nearby medical facility to come in each month to collect the samples to be tested. We give them a list of participants and Sports Safe generates random ID numbers for each participant. They use this list to randomly select 10% each month for testing.
- Enrollment - 383 students 7-12 in 2018-19
- % Participation - approximately 65%
- # tested each month - 20-25 students
- # of positive test results - 3 students last year
- First Offense - sit out 10 participation days and complete educational programming
- Second Offense - sit out 45 participation days and must under an evaluation from a mental health provider
- Third Offense - sit out for 12 months and be included in testing the following year.
- Our BOE approved adding Nicotine to the list of substances tested for the 2019-20 school year. This addition will add about \$5.00 per test, so we estimate an additional \$900.00 per year.

Again, our focus is to be preventative and proactive. We want to give our students a reason to say "No!" to peer pressure.