

Administrative Regulation

Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

AR 4112.42/4212.42/4312.42

Personnel

Definitions

For purposes of drug testing required by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), drugs include marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, phencyclidine (PCP), and opioids. (49 CFR 40.3, 40.85, 382.107)

Alcohol concentration (or content) means the alcohol in a volume of breath expressed in terms of grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath as indicated by an evidential breath test. (49 CFR 40.3, 382.107)

Safety-sensitive function means all time from the time the driver begins to work or is required to be in readiness to work until the time the driver is relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work. Safety-sensitive functions include, but are not limited to, all time driving or otherwise in the bus or other school transportation vehicle; waiting at a district facility to be dispatched; inspecting, servicing, or conditioning the vehicle or vehicle equipment; loading or unloading the vehicle; supervising or assisting in the loading or unloading of the vehicle; and repairing, obtaining assistance, or remaining in attendance upon a disabled vehicle. (49 CFR 382.107)

Designated Employer Representatives

The Superintendent or designee shall identify a designated employer representative who is authorized to take immediate action to remove drivers from safety-sensitive functions and to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation processes. The designated employer representative shall also be responsible for receiving test results and other communications. The name and telephone number of the designated employer representative shall be provided to the testing contractor to contact about any problems or issues that may arise during the testing process. (49 CFR 40.35, 40.215)

Pre-employment Testing

When hiring a new driver, the Superintendent or designee shall, with the driver's written consent, conduct a preemployment query using the Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse to obtain information about whether the driver has committed a violation of federal drug or alcohol regulations. (49 CFR 382.701)

The Superintendent or designee shall also, with the driver's consent, request the driver's past drug and alcohol testing record, as specified in 49 CFR 40.25 and 382.413, from any employer who has employed the driver at any time during the previous three years.

To the extent practicable, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain and review such information before the driver first performs safety-sensitive functions. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall ask the driver if there was a positive test, or a refusal to test, on any pre-employment drug or alcohol test that was administered during the past two years in the course of applying for another safety-sensitive transportation position that was not obtained. (49 CFR 40.25, 382.413)

The driver shall not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions if the driver refuses to provide consent to obtain the information from previous employers or from the Clearinghouse; the information from previous employers is not received within 30 days of the date on which the driver first performed safety-sensitive functions for the district; or the driver, the Clearinghouse, or a previous employer reports a violation of a drug or alcohol regulation without subsequent completion of the return-to-duty process. (49 CFR 40.25, 382.413, 382.701, 382.703)

A driver whom the district intends to hire or use shall undergo testing for drugs and receive a verified negative test result prior to the first time the driver performs safety-sensitive functions for the district. This testing requirement may be waived if all of the following conditions exist: (49 CFR 382.301)

1. The driver has participated in a qualified drug testing program within the previous 30 days.
2. While participating in the program, the driver either was tested within the past six months from the date of application or participated in a random drug testing program for the previous 12 months from the date of application.
3. No prior employer of the driver of whom the district has knowledge has records of the driver's violation of federal drug testing regulations within the previous six months.

The Superintendent or designee shall contact the testing program(s) in which the driver has participated and obtain information about the program and the driver's participation as specified in 49 CFR 382.301.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall require the driver to undergo pre-employment alcohol testing in accordance with the procedures in 49 CFR 40.1-40.605 and to receive a test result indicating an alcohol concentration of less than 0.04. (49 CFR 382.301)

Post-Accident Testing

As soon as practicable following an accident involving a school bus or student activity bus, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the driver involved is tested for alcohol and/or drugs under either of the following conditions: (49 CFR 382.303)

1. The accident involved loss of human life.
2. The driver receives a citation for a moving traffic violation within eight hours of the accident and the accident involved bodily injury to a person who required immediate medical treatment away from the scene of the accident and/or disabling damage to one or more vehicles requiring towing.

The Superintendent or designee shall attempt to administer a required alcohol test up to eight hours following the accident and/or a drug test up to 32 hours following the accident. The results of an alcohol or drug test conducted by federal, state, or local officials having independent authority for the test shall be considered to meet this requirement. If the alcohol test is not administered within two hours following the accident, or the test for drugs is not administered within 32 hours following the accident, the Superintendent or designee shall make a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered. (49 CFR 382.303)

No driver required to take a post-accident alcohol test pursuant to 49 CFR 382.303 shall use alcohol for eight hours following the accident or until the driver undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first. (49 CFR 382.209)

Random Testing

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that random, unannounced drug and alcohol tests of bus drivers are conducted on testing dates reasonably spread throughout the year.

Such tests shall be unannounced and conducted during, immediately before, or immediately after the performance of safety-sensitive functions. (49 CFR 382.305)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the percentage of district drivers randomly tested for drugs and alcohol meets or exceeds the minimum annual percentage rates specified in 49 CFR 382.305 or subsequently published in the Federal Register.

Each driver selected for random testing shall have an equal chance of being tested each time selections are made. (49 CFR 382.305)

Each driver who is selected for testing shall proceed to the test site immediately or, if performing a safety-sensitive function other than driving a bus, then as soon as possible after ceasing that function. (49 CFR 382.305)

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

A driver shall be required to submit to a drug or alcohol test whenever the Superintendent or designee has reasonable suspicion that the driver has violated the prohibitions against the use of drugs or alcohol. Such reasonable suspicion shall be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations, conducted during, immediately before, or immediately after the performance of safety-sensitive functions, concerning the driver's appearance, behavior, speech, and/or body odors. Reasonable suspicion of drug use may also include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of drugs. (49 CFR 382.307)

The person who makes the required observations for reasonable suspicion testing for drugs or alcohol shall be trained in accordance with 49 CFR 382.603. The person who makes the determination that reasonable suspicion exists to conduct an alcohol test shall not be the same person who conducts the alcohol test. (49 CFR 382.307)

Within 24 hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the drug or alcohol test are released, whichever is earlier, a written record of the observations leading to a reasonable suspicion test shall be made and signed by the person who made the observations. (49 CFR 382.307)

An alcohol test required as a result of reasonable suspicion shall be administered within eight hours following the determination of reasonable suspicion. If the test is not administered within two hours, the Superintendent or designee shall prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered. (49 CFR 382.307)

In the absence of a reasonable suspicion alcohol test, the district shall take no action against a driver based solely on the driver's behavior and appearance, except that the driver shall not be allowed to report for or remain on safety sensitive functions until an alcohol test is administered and the results show a concentration less than 0.02 or 24 hours have elapsed following the determination of reasonable suspicion. (49 CFR 382.307)

Return-to-Duty Testing

Note: Pursuant to 49 CFR 40.305, the district may return a driver to safety-sensitive functions after the driver completes required education and treatment services as described in the accompanying Board policy and a return-to-duty drug or alcohol test. Such personnel decisions may be subject to collective bargaining or other legal requirements.

The Superintendent or designee may permit a driver who has violated federal drug or alcohol regulations to return to safety-sensitive functions after the driver has successfully complied with the education and treatment services prescribed by a substance abuse professional and has taken a return-to-duty drug or alcohol test. The driver shall not resume performance of safety-sensitive functions unless the drug test shows a negative result and/or the alcohol test shows a concentration of less than 0.02. (49 CFR 40.305, 382.309)

Follow-Up Testing

Upon receiving a written follow-up testing plan from a substance abuse professional, the Superintendent or designee shall determine the actual dates for follow-up testing consistent with those recommendations and shall ensure that such tests are unannounced and follow no discernable pattern as to their timing. No additional tests beyond those included in the plan shall be imposed by the district. (49 CFR 40.307-40.309, 382.111)

Mandatory Reporting and Annual Queries to the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse

The Superintendent or designee shall report to the Clearinghouse any violation of federal drug and alcohol regulations, any refusal to test, and other required information by the close of the third business day following the date on which the information was obtained. (49 CFR 382.705)

The Superintendent or designee shall conduct a query using the Clearinghouse at least once a year for all drivers to determine whether information exists in the Clearinghouse about the drivers. (49 CFR 382.701)

In lieu of a full query, the Superintendent or designee may obtain the individual driver's consent to conduct a limited query that is effective for more than one year and informs the district about whether there is information about the driver in the Clearinghouse without releasing that information to the district. If the limited query shows that information exists in the Clearinghouse about the individual driver, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct a full query within 24 hours of conducting the limited query. If a full query is not conducted within 24 hours, the driver may not perform any safety-sensitive function until the results from a full query confirm that the driver may perform such functions. (49 CFR 382.701)

A driver may not perform any safety-sensitive function if the results of a Clearinghouse query demonstrate that the driver has committed a violation of federal drug or alcohol regulations. (49 CFR 382.701)

Notifications

The Superintendent or designee shall provide each driver with materials explaining the federal regulations and the district's policy and procedure related to drug and alcohol testing and shall notify representatives of employee organizations of the availability of this information. This information shall include a detailed discussion of at least the following: (49 CFR 382.113, 382.303, 382.601)

1. The identity of the person designated by the district to answer driver questions about the materials
2. The categories of drivers who are subject to drug and alcohol testing
3. Sufficient information about the safety-sensitive functions performed by those drivers to make clear what period of the workday the driver is required to be in compliance
4. Specific information concerning prohibited driver conduct
5. The circumstances under which a driver will be tested for drugs and/or alcohol, including post-accident testing
6. The procedures that will be used to test for the presence of drugs and alcohol, 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
7. The requirement that a driver submit to drug and alcohol tests
8. An explanation of what constitutes a refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol test and the attendant consequences
9. The consequences for drivers found to have violated the prohibitions against drug or alcohol use, including the circumstances under which drivers will be removed immediately from safety-sensitive functions and the requirements for education, treatment, and return-to-duty testing

10. The consequences for drivers found to have a blood alcohol concentration between 0.02 and 0.04
11. Information concerning the effects of drug and alcohol use on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of a drug or alcohol problem (the driver's or a co-worker's); and available methods of intervening when a drug or alcohol problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to any employee assistance program, and/or referral to management
12. The requirement that personal information collected and maintained pursuant to 49 CFR 382 shall be reported to the Clearinghouse

Each driver shall sign a statement certifying receipt of a copy of the above materials. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain the original of the signed certificate and may provide a copy of the certificate to the driver. (49 CFR 382.601)

In addition, prior to administering each alcohol or drug test, the driver shall be notified that the test is required pursuant to Title 49, Part 382, of the Code of Federal Regulations. (49 CFR 382.113)

The driver shall be notified of the results of drug and alcohol tests in accordance with 49 CFR 382.411.

Records

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of the district's drug and alcohol testing program in accordance with 49 CFR 40.333 and 382.401. Such records shall be maintained in a secure location with controlled access and shall be disclosed only in accordance with 49 CFR 382.405.

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