

Bishop Kelley High School Drug and Alcohol Testing Program

National statistics from [Monitoring the Future](#) indicate that 39 percent of all sophomores and 50 percent of all seniors have used illegal drugs. Additionally, 52 percent of sophomores and 68 percent of seniors have used alcohol, including over 20 percent of seniors who report having participated in binge drinking (five or more drinks in a row) in the previous two weeks. Similar results are detailed for Oklahoma through the [Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment Survey](#), a survey in which Bishop Kelley High School students participate. *

[The Center for Disease Control](#) has identified alcohol use by persons under 21 years of age as a major public health problem. Youth who drink alcohol are more likely to experience social, school and legal problems, car crashes, unintentional injuries, unwanted and unprotected sexual activity, and changes in brain development that may have life-long effects. Youth who start drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse later in life than those who begin drinking at or after the age of 21. **

In an effort to be proactive rather than reactive in addressing the issue of alcohol abuse by our students, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, Bishop Kelley High School will add testing for excessive alcohol use to its current drug testing program.

Why is drug testing required at Bishop Kelley?

Out of concern for our students, Bishop Kelley administrators and the Advisory Council make every effort to have highly effective safety practices to keep all of our students secure during their high school years. Some of these efforts include improving campus lighting, installing security fencing, electronic access, using canine contraband detection, drug and alcohol education, and using breath tests prior to dances.

What are the benefits of testing all students?

Students who choose to use damaging and illegal substances will likely not opt to attend Bishop Kelley, which makes the campus safer for everyone. The fact that every student is tested gives students the support they may need to decline using illegal substances. Also, teens that use drugs are more likely to engage in other unsafe or illegal activity. We hope to prevent student use of harmful substances and to help students who have already made some unhealthy decisions.

Are tests confidential?

Yes. Results are stored off campus on a password-protected server with access by the President and Dean of Students. Results are stored by identification numbers; no names are stored with results. The school does not keep records; only the testing company has the results.

Why is hair testing the method chosen to test students for drug use?

Hair testing is the most accurate and non-invasive test available. Schools nation-wide have been using the test since 1997 to help their students stay drug-free. Courts routinely use hair testing in their probation, parole, and diversionary programs. The accuracy of hair testing is well established.

An FDA approved hair test, analyzed by Psychemedics Labs www.psychemedics.com, has been selected for testing at BKHS. Hair analysis provides a several month window to detect drug

ingestion and is highly resistant to evasion by adulterating or substituting samples, or by simply abstaining from drug use for a few days.

How much hair is required for a test?

In general, the amount needed is the thickness of a shoelace tip. A standard test of one-and-one-half inches of head hair cut close to the scalp can provide a several month window to detect drug ingestion. If head hair is not available, arm or leg hair can be used as an alternative. Only trained school personnel will obtain hair samples.

Are all samples sent in for analysis?

Absolutely. Parents may request detailed results from the Dean of Students.

What if a student has a legal prescription for a substance that shows up on the test?

Hair tests can determine levels of substances. If a student has a verifiable prescription and is taking normal amounts of a commonly prescribed substance, there will be no problems with the test.

What is the cost of drug testing?

A \$75 per student annual fee covers one test for each student and subsequent random tests in an academic year. The fee also covers costs associated with canine detection and drug and alcohol education. This cost will be included in the July tuition statement and will be listed as a separate fee. If a student tests positive, a second test will be scheduled in 100 days at the parents/guardians' additional expense.

How often will students be tested?

All students will be tested for illegal drugs at least once during the school year. At least 25% of students will be randomly selected for additional testing throughout the year. Once a student is selected for random testing, his/her name goes back into the pool and may be selected again. If a student is randomly selected, no additional charge is incurred for another test.

What drugs are included in a standard test?

The test identifies cocaine, marijuana, opiates (including heroin and oxycodone), methamphetamine, Ecstasy (MDMA), Eve (MDEA) and phencyclidine (PCP). If a reasonable suspicion exists that a student is abusing or under the influence of another drug, specific tests for that substance may be required.

Does chemical treatment of the hair affect the test results?

Commonly used hair procedures (e.g., shampoos, conditioners, sprays, mousses and gels) have no significant effect on results. In fact, normal hair washing helps to remove external contamination. Normal hair treatments such as bleaching, perming and dyeing generally will not significantly lower the quantitative results.

Does the hair test show use of alcohol?

An approved hair test has been developed by Psychemedics that will detect excessive alcohol use such as binge drinking. Drinking a beer or a glass of wine will not cause a positive test. This test may be utilized if a student is found to be under the influence or in possession of alcohol at school or at a school event. **Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year a percentage of students will also be selected each year for random alcohol testing.** The same procedures will be followed in response to a positive test for excessive alcohol use that are used for a positive drug test. Passive sensors and breathalyzer tests are also accurate and practical ways to detect alcohol use and will continue to be used at or prior to school functions.

What happens if my son or daughter tests positive for excessive alcohol use or the use of illegal drugs on a random test.

If a student tests positive for illegal drugs or excessive alcohol use the Dean of Students will meet with the student and at least one parent or guardian to review the results. The student will be required to complete a drug and alcohol education course. No further disciplinary action will be taken at this time. The student will be tested again after 100 days.

If a student tests positive for illegal drugs or excessive alcohol use a second time the Dean of Students will review the student disciplinary record. If the student has had excessive or serious disciplinary issues the student may be required to withdraw from Bishop Kelley High School. If the student is allowed to continue at Bishop Kelley he or she will need to complete a chemical dependency screening at an approved agency and follow all recommendations of the evaluation. The student will not be allowed to participate in athletic or co-curricular activities until all evaluation recommendations have been met.

If a student tests positive for illegal drugs or excessive alcohol use a third time during his or her high school career, he or she will be required to withdraw from Bishop Kelley High School.

Do the screening results appear anywhere on a student's permanent record?

No. A cumulative student file contains an academic transcript, attendance records, educational testing records, parent contact information, and required health information. Guidance and Discipline records are not sent to colleges.

What options exist for a student who wants to seek help?

The type of counseling that is available from the Bishop Kelley counseling staff is supportive in nature and not therapeutic; however we will work closely with the student and family to find and support an appropriate treatment program. We will work with any student who needs an inpatient or outpatient program so that he/she has the option of staying at or returning to Bishop Kelley.

* <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/underage-drinking.htm>

**Contact [Jeff Pratt](#), Dean of Students, for current Bishop Kelley High School – Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment Survey data