

School-Based Student Drug-Testing Programs

Charity M. Richey-Bentley, President and CEO,
Northeast Alabama Center for Community Initiatives
(NACCI)

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Blount County, Alabama

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Our "Got to Have's" of Development

- **Community Engagement!**
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- **Invested School Board and School Personnel**
- **Comprehensive, School-Board-adopted drug-testing policy**
 - **Policy must direct and implement drug-testing program**

Community Engagement

Who Did We Engage?

- Inside School System:
 - School Board of Education members (all)
 - Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent
 - Principals (strive for all)
 - Counselors (strive for all)
 - Nurses (strive for all)
 - Social Workers (strive for all)
 - Directors of various school service programs
 - Multi-needs Center
 - Center of Technology

Community Engagement

Who Did We Engage?

• Inside School System:

- All Coaches (Coaches' Association if you have one)
- Parent Involvement Specialists
- School Resource Officers
- Curriculum Coordinators
- Parents and Students!

Community Engagement

Who Did We Engage?

• Outside School System:

- Local Judges
- Sherriff's Department
- Probation Officers
- Governmental representatives (Mayors, Town Clerks)
- Faith-based entities
- Various business and industry leaders (Chamber of Commerce, Restaurants, Insurance Agencies, Food Processing Plants, etc.)
- **Parents and Students!**

Community Engagement

How Did We Engage?

- Community meetings
- Within-Schools meetings
- Printed materials

Comprehensive Board-Adopted Drug-Testing Policy

The NACCI and Blount County Board of Education drafted a drug-testing policy which was used as a “working” document to take to the community. It contained these components:

- Eligibility for Testing;
- Confidentiality Procedures;
- Testing Procedure;
- Collection of samples;
- Notification of testing results;
- Consequences-First, Second and Third Positive
- Appeal Procedure;
- Pupil Consent to Test Form;
- Drop Form; and
- Legal Assurance

Implementation

We submitted our grant application with an engaged community and a comprehensive, board-adopted drug-testing policy. Consequently, implementation has been very smooth. The policy directs implementation.

Implementation – What Has Worked Well

Drug-Testing Device

Our program drug tests using the Quantisal™ Saliva Collection Device



Drug-Testing Device

Rationale for Oral Fluid Testing

- Less invasive than other testing methods;
- Does not require a private bathroom to collect the specimen;
- Takes less time to test a higher number of students; and
- Less chance for specimen tampering or adulteration to occur

Implementation – What Has Worked Well

Evaluation

We use a community-based, participatory evaluation component.

Implementation - Challenge

We drug-test three (3) groups of students:

- Students who participate in any athletics;
- Students who participate in competitive, extra-curricular activities and/or school clubs which have competitive components; and
- Students who elect to voluntarily participate in the School-Based Student Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Program who provide consent and their parents provide consent

Implementation - Challenge

Challenge →

Students who elect to voluntarily participate in the School-Based Student Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Program who provide consent and their parents provide consent

Sustainability - Challenges

- Length of federal grant
- Securing financial support
- Securing “community capacity” support
- Evaluation