

EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
SEARCHES AND ALCOHOL/DRUG TESTING

DHE
(LOCAL)

Reasonable Cause Searches

The District reserves the right to conduct searches when the District has reasonable cause to believe that a search will uncover evidence of work-related misconduct. The District may search the employee, the employee's personal items, work areas, lockers, and private vehicles parked on District premises or worksites or used in District business.

Reasonable Suspicion Alcohol and Drug Testing

The District may remove an employee from duty and require testing if there is reasonable suspicion that the employee is under the influence of alcohol or drugs used in violation of District policy. The determination of reasonable suspicion may be based on specific observations of the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors of the employee whose motor ability, emotional equilibrium, or mental acuity seems to be impaired while on duty or other relevant information. Any employee who is asked to submit to drug or alcohol testing shall be given the opportunity to provide relevant information about prescription or nonprescription medications that may affect the screening.

A District employee who refuses to comply with a directive to submit to testing based upon reasonable suspicion shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

A District employee confirmed to have violated the District's policy pertaining to alcohol or drugs may be subject to disciplinary action. [See DF series and DH]

Note: The following provisions apply to employees who are covered by the federal Department of Transportation (DOT) rules.

Department of Transportation Testing Program

The District shall establish an alcohol and controlled substances testing program to help prevent accidents and injuries resulting from the misuse of alcohol and controlled substances by the drivers of commercial motor vehicles, including school buses. The primary purpose of the testing program is to prevent impaired employees from performing safety-sensitive functions. The District has determined that the position of school vehicle mechanic fits the definition of "safety-sensitive."

Drug-Related Violations

The following constitute drug-related violations:

1. Refusing to submit to a required test for alcohol or controlled substances.
2. Providing an adulterated, diluted, or a substituted specimen on an alcohol or drug test.
3. Testing positive for alcohol in a postaccident test.

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4. Testing positive for controlled substances in a postaccident test.
5. Testing positive for alcohol in a random test.
6. Testing positive for controlled substances in a random test.
7. Testing positive for alcohol in a reasonable suspicion test.
8. Testing positive for controlled substances in a reasonable suspicion test.

Consortium

With specific Board approval, the Superintendent may contract on behalf of the District with outside consultants and contractors and work with a consortium of other local governments to secure the testing services, educational materials, and other component elements needed for this program.

Under such contract, the consortium shall be responsible for implementing, directing, administering, and managing the alcohol and controlled substances program within the U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines. The consortium shall serve as the principal contact with the laboratory and for collection activities in assuring the effective operation of the testing portion of the program.

Reasonable
Suspicion Testing

Only supervisors specifically trained in accordance with federal regulations may, based upon reasonable suspicion, remove a driver from a safety-sensitive position and require testing for alcohol and/or controlled substances. The determination of reasonable suspicion shall be based on specific observations of the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors of the driver. Such observations must take place just preceding, during, or just after the period of the workday that the driver is on duty.

The observations may include indication of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances. Within 24 hours of the observed behavior, the supervisor shall provide a signed, written record documenting the observations leading to a controlled substance reasonable suspicion test.

Consequences of
Positive Test
Results

In addition to the consequences established by federal law, a District employee confirmed to have violated the District's policy pertaining to alcohol or controlled substances shall be subject to District-imposed discipline, as determined by his or her supervisor(s) and the Superintendent. Such discipline may include any appropriate action from suspension without pay during the period of removal from safety-sensitive functions, up to and including termination of employment. [See DF series]

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In cases where a driver is also employed in a nondriving capacity by the District, disciplinary action imposed for violation of alcohol and controlled substances policies shall apply to the employee's functions and duties that involve driving. Additionally, upon recommendation of the employee's supervisor, disciplinary measures up to and including termination of employment with the District may be considered.