

**UTILIZATION OF ALCOHOL DETECTION DEVICES****General Background**

Poway Unified School District recognizes the importance of efforts designed to maintain a safe and orderly environment free from alcohol and other controlled substances. The District also recognizes the benefit of providing deterrents to the possession or use of these negative factors in the school setting or at school related events. The reasonable and appropriate utilization of alcohol detection devices offers a key deterrent with respect to student alcohol use by providing one more reason not to consume alcohol.

Alcohol detection devices will be available for use by the designated and trained staff members during the school day or at any time during a school related activity including but not limited to co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. The device may be utilized in the course of a normal investigation when other symptoms of alcohol use are present. In addition, staff may choose to utilize the devices randomly as a condition for attendance at an extracurricular or co-curricular event. These events may be on or off campus and may include but are not limited to school dances, sporting events, field trips, school performances, and other similar activities. All students and guests, or other individuals deemed so necessary, will be subject to the use of the alcohol detection devices.

**Alcohol Detection Devices**

An alcohol detection device or passive alcohol sensor is a device that can detect the presence and level of alcohol on one's breath or in open containers and the immediate area around a subject. The device is "passive and non-obtrusive" because the subject does not need to directly participate in its use. The Superintendent or designee will confer with law enforcement regarding the selection and type of device most appropriate for school needs.

The devices commonly possess the same attributes. For example, the alcohol detection sensor draws in an air sample from the proximity of the subject or object area. Alcohol vapors electronically activate a multicolored bar-graph display that indicates the approximate alcohol concentration in the air sample.

**Administration of Alcohol Detection Devices**

In an effort to maintain a safe and orderly environment, only trained administrative staff or their trained designees or agents of law enforcement will administer tests with the alcohol detection devices. Training session attendance by the appropriate staff will be verified and kept on file at each school site. Law enforcement personnel or other individuals appropriately trained will conduct the training on an annual basis.

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- A subject student will be asked to talk or exhale near the detection device and an immediate reading will be taken.
- A student's refusal to cooperate with the alcohol detection test does not inhibit the results of the test being used as evidence in a discipline proceeding since the test is passive and does not require any overt act by the subject and is non-intrusive.
- If the presence of alcohol vapors is indicated, another reading will be taken approximately 15 minutes later to substantiate the first reading.

Passive alcohol detection devices provide an additional portion of evidence and the test results, while very accurate, should be combined with all other gathered information and observations to determine the presence or use of alcohol. Administrators will proceed as directed by district procedure if it is determined that a student is in violation of district prohibitions relating to alcohol.

The deterrent effect is the key to utilizing these devices, along with providing a safe environment for students. The District desires to promote a healthy lifestyle and intends to keep schools and school activities free of alcohol and other drugs.