



**8315, Alcohol/Breathalyzer Use Policy  
(ADOPTED BY EG SCHOOL COMMITTEE)  
October 17, 2023**

***8315: Alcohol/Breathalyzer Use Policy***

Purpose

EGPS is committed to discouraging and eliminating the use of alcohol by students attending school, or any school functions or activities. EGPS has a responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all students while they are under the care and supervision of the schools.

Overview

This policy establishes guidelines for the administration breathalyzer testing in a manner that respects the rights and individual needs of all students, including those with special education needs.

If school personnel have a reasonable suspicion (see below) that a student has used alcohol before or during the school day, or while seeking entrance to or attending any school function or activity, on or off campus, the student may be required to submit to a breathalyzer test administered by school personnel or its designees.

Further, all students may be required to submit to a *randomized breathalyzer test* prior to or during any school function or activity, on or off campus, administered by school personnel or its designees.

If EGPS determines that for a specific school function or activity the administration of *universal breathalyzer tests* for all students may be necessary, to protect the safety and well-being of the entire student body, the Superintendent and the Principal will provide students and families with advance notice, prior to and during the advance ticketing of the event, of its plan to test all students and an explanation of the testing procedure.

For either randomized or universal breathalyzer testing, EGPS will notify parents of students with disabilities of its plans so that parents and educators can be prepared to assist students in advance and to provide necessary accommodations in school and at events.

Policy Requirements

The following standards shall be followed at all times:

1. A student about whom there is reasonable suspicion of consumption of alcohol shall be referred to the appropriate administrator for a breathalyzer test. Indication of reasonable suspicion may include, but will not be limited to: alcohol odor, slurred speech, unsteady gait, lack of coordination, presence in the

vicinity of an alcohol container, bloodshot or glazed eyes, or such other objective indicia that raises a reasonable suspicion as to alcohol consumption.

2. Breathalyzer tests shall be administered only by school personnel or its designees who have been trained in how to administer the test and how to de-escalate situations if students experience anxiety, misunderstand instructions, cannot physically take the test or refuse testing. If non-school employees, e.g., parents or third-party providers, are designated, each individual must sign agreements to maintain student privacy and must conduct themselves with reasonable care and discretion.
3. During the school day, a student suspected of alcohol consumption will be directed to an office or other private, safe location away from other students, area where he/she may be observed and questioned. If the student acknowledges having consumed alcohol, no breathalyzer test will be administered. If the student denies alcohol consumption, but a reasonable suspicion of alcohol consumption exists, school personnel may administer a breathalyzer test at their discretion.
4. At school events outside the regular school day, any or all students may be subject to randomized testing. Testing on or off school property will always take place in the most safe and secure location available, with all due care taken to protect student privacy and ensure a fair and non-judgmental process. Accommodations for students with special needs will be made in each testing situation, consistent with both legal requirements and also with reasonable standards of care and concern, to provide for the individual well-being of all students.
5. Randomization protocols will ensure that no students are being personally selected or targeted and that the administration of the breathalyzer test will be executed with due care for student privacy and well-being.
6. If a student tests positive, at school or at a school function or activity, parents and/or guardians will be contacted and instructed to come to the school/activity and transport the student home.
7. Students who test positive following a breathalyzer test, or who admit to having alcohol, will be subjected to disciplinary consequences as otherwise set forth in the East Greenwich High School Code of Conduct.
8. Refusal to submit to the breathalyzer test will require the student to leave school, or to be denied admission to a school function, or to leave a school function. If a student refuses to submit to the test, a designated school employee will stay with the student until the student's parents or guardians are notified and can transport the student safely home.
9. All disciplinary action in support of this policy will be administered in accordance with the section titled "Substance Abuse" in the East Greenwich Schools Code of Conduct.