

TO: Board of Education

THRU: Dr. Mike Dominguez, Superintendent

FROM: Drew Thon, HR Director

DATE: May 12, 2025

RE: End-of-Year Summary: 2024–2025 USD 457 Random Student Drug Testing Program

ISSUE:

To provide the Board of Education with an end-of-year summary and analysis of the district's first year implementing student drug testing at the secondary level, including key outcomes, challenges, and considerations for future program improvements.

BACKGROUND:

At the direction of the Board of Education, USD 457 launched its first year of random student drug testing during the 2024–2025 school year. The program, implemented in accordance with Board Policy JDDAA-R, focused on students participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities and clubs at the middle and high school levels. The goal was to promote a safe, drug-free environment, provide students with a reason to say no to peer pressure, and encourage those struggling with substance use to seek help.

Over the course of the year, 264 tests were conducted across Garden City High School, Horace Good Middle School, Kenneth Henderson Middle School, and Garden City Achieve. Building-level procedures were refined over time to reduce classroom disruptions and improve efficiency. The Board had previously requested an end-of-year report summarizing implementation efforts, outcomes, and areas for improvement. The attached report provides detailed testing data, logistical adjustments, and a financial summary of the program to help guide ongoing discussions.

ALTERNATIVES:

No Action Needed

RECOMMENDATION:

No Recommendation Needed

FISCAL NOTE:

During the 2024–2025 school year, USD 457 conducted a total of 264 drug tests at a cost of \$9,880 as of April 15, 2025. These expenses include all contracted services through our third-party vendor for sample collection, lab testing, and Medical Review Officer (MRO) reporting.

In addition to the testing costs, successful coordination and oversight of the program required significant time from multiple building administrators and district-level staff. To streamline operations and ensure consistency in implementation across all secondary sites, the district allocated funding to support a 0.5 FTE (half-time) nurse position beginning in 2024–2025. This individual served as the district's lead for drug testing, managing logistics, coordinating with the vendor, tracking compliance, and communicating results under confidential protocols.



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The addition of this position has helped standardize the process, reduce the burden on building staff, and ensure greater fidelity to Board policy moving forward.

ATTACHMENTS:

- **Board Report on Drug Testing**

Sincerely,

Drew Thon
Chief HR Director
Garden City Public Schools - USD 457



	GCHS	HGMS	KHMS	GCA
September	Total- 20 Retest- NA New- 20 Positive- 2* Negative- 18 *Positive for Marijuana	Total- 9 Retest- NA New- 9 Positive- 0 Negative- 9	Total- 7 Retest- NA New- 7 Positive- 0 Negative- 7	Testing Not Performed
October	Total- 21 Retest- 2 Positive- 0 Negative- 1 Refused- 1 New- 20 Positive- 0 Negative- 20	Total- 10 Retest- 0 New- 10 Positive- 0 Negative- 10	Total- 7 Retest- 0 New- 7 Positive- 0 Negative- 7	Testing Not Performed
November	Total- 22 Retest- 3 Positive- 0 Negative- 1 Refused- 2 New- 21 Positive- 2* Negative- 19 *Positive for Marijuana	Total- 10 Retest- 0 New- 10 Positive- 0 Negative- 10	Total- 7 Retest- 0 New- 7 Positive- 0 Negative- 7	Testing Not Performed
December	Total- 24 Retest- 5 Positive- 0 Negative- 2 Refused- 1 Absent- 1 New- 21 Positive- 0 Negative- 21	Total- 10 Retest- 0 New- 10 Positive- 0 Negative- 10	Total- 7 Retest- 0 New- 7 Positive- 0 Negative- 7	Testing Not Performed
January	Total- 22 Retest- 4 Positive- 0 Negative- 1 Absent- 2	Total- 10 Retest- 0 New- 10 Positive- 0 Negative- 10	Total- 7 Retest- 0 New- 7 Positive- 0 Negative- 7	Testing Not Performed

	Refused- 1 New- 21 Positive- 0 Negative- 21			
February	Total- 0 No testing due to schedule conflict and snow days	Total- 10 Retest- 0 New- 10 Positive- 0 Negative- 10	Total- 7 Retest- 0 New- 7 Positive- 0 Negative- 7	Testing Not Performed
March	Total- 19 Retest- 4 Positive- 0 Negative- 2 Refused- 1 Left GCHS- 1 New- 17 Positive- 0 Negative- 17	Total- 10 Retest- 0 New- 10 Positive- 0 Negative- 10	Total- 7 Retest- 0 New- 7 Positive- 1* Negative- 6 *Positive for Amphetamines. Adderall prescription provided	Total-1 Retest- 0 New- 1 Positive- 0 Negative- 1
April	Total- 17 Retest- 2 Positive- 1 Negative- 0 New- 15 Positive- 0 Negative- 15	Total- 10 Retest- 0 New- 10 Positive- 0 Negative- 1	Total- 7 Retest- 0 New- 7 Positive- 0 Negative- 7	Total- 1 Retest- 0 New- 1 Positive- 0 Negative- 1
May	Total- 21 Retest- 1 Positive- 1 Negative- 0 New- 20 Positive- 1 Negative- 19	Total	Total	Total

Total Tests Performed- 303

GCHS- 166

HGMS- 79

KHMS- 56

GCA- 2

Total Positive- 7

Total Negative- 296

Total Billed (as of 4/15/2025)- \$9,880

During the 2024-2025 school year, USD 457 performed 264 drug tests in accordance with Board Policy JDDAA-R Student Misuse of Medication. Of the 264 tests performed, 145 tests were performed at Garden City High School, 5 of which were positive. At HGMS, 69 tests were performed. All of which were negative. Kenneth Henderson Middle School saw 49 tests, one of which was positive.

At Garden City High School in September, 2 students tested positive. One of these students retested only once in October, then refused further testing. The other student that tested positive in September was absent in October, tested negative in November and December. In January, the test provided did not meet the temperature requirements and was disqualified for testing; the student was unable to provide an additional sample that day thus counting as a positive test. No testing was performed in February. Their March test was negative and their April test was positive. This student has been excluded from activities for one year.

In October, there was one student who refused testing. This student continued to refuse testing in November, tested negative in December, then transferred out of GCHS in the new year.

In November, 2 students tested positive for marijuana. One of these students one refused further testing. The other student has completed testing each month and has tested negative each time. This student tested positive for marijuana in May. He will continue testing for the 2025-2026 school year.

One additional student tested positive in May. He will also be tested at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.

Testing was initially performed in the high school library using the bathroom directly across the hall at 7:50 in the morning. Several problems arose with this initial plan. First, on testing days with a greater number of female students a line formed for the female tester from Acelecare keeping students out of class longer than necessary. Also, beginning at the start of the school day let a longer amount of time spent waiting for students to be able to provide a urine sample. To remedy these problems, testing was moved to 9:00am which cut down on waiting times significantly. Also, testing was moved from the library to the Officials area near the gym. This move provided private bathrooms in order to allow all students to be tested with greater comfort by either the male or female tester.

At HGMS, 79 tests were performed. All of these tests were negative. Testing was performed in the main office using the staff bathrooms. This worked very well for both students and staff. HGMS faced the same problems with delayed testing due to beginning testing at the start of the day and the student's inability to provide a urine sample. Testing was moved to 9:00am which also greatly decreased the time students were out of class.

At KHMS, 56 tests were performed. Of these tests, only 1 was positive. This test was positive for amphetamines. The student had a valid Adderall prescription and this positive test was not counted against the student. Testing was performed in the main office using the conference room and staff bathrooms which worked well for students and staff. The start time was also moved to 9:00am which led to less time out of class for the students.

Two students have been tested at Garden City Achieve. Both tests were negative. The students were brought to the HGMS main office for testing on the same day that testing was performed at HGMS.