

## **5.24—STUDENT ATHLETE DRUG TESTING POLICY**

### ***STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:***

Because of the ever-increasing incidence of drug use and addiction among the youth of our society, the Fayetteville Board of Education has determined that it has a compelling interest in the protection and safety of its students who are involved in athletics. The Board of Education recognizes that adolescence is a time when the physical, psychological, and addictive effects of drugs are most severe and their use can lead to immediate physical harm or injury of a student or others engaged in athletic activities. The Board further acknowledges that interscholastic athletics play an important part in the lives of many students and are significant events in creating the culture and climate of the District. The positive lessons learned in athletics are beneficial to students, not only during their school years, but also long after they leave school. Athletics provide students with special opportunities to develop skills and attitudes and to be recognized for their accomplishments. Participants in athletics are considered to be role models by their peers and younger students in the community.

Because interscholastic athletics are elective opportunities, and because of the potential risk of physical harm to students engaged in drug use, and because those who choose to become involved in athletics are visible representatives of the District as well as role models, the Fayetteville Board of Education adopts this resolution as a statement of purpose concerning the drug testing of student athletes and as a statement in support of such testing.

Further, the Fayetteville Board of Education intends to evaluate the effectiveness of this policy and will consider expanding the drug testing program to other extracurricular activities should a need be demonstrated.

Approved:        7/23/98  
Re-codified      8-28-03  
Revised:         5-29-08