



**OREGON**  
**CUSD220**

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May 3, 2021

To: Board of Education  
From: Mike Lawton, Activities Director  
Re: Proposal

For over two decades, OCUSD #220 has required a pre-participation drug test in order for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade athletes to compete in school sports for that particular school year. The cost of this test has been the paid responsibility of family. If the student qualified for the free lunch program, then the district picked up the cost of the test. During this current 2020-21 school year, due to COVID-19, the district waived this requirement.

KSB Corporate Health has informed us that the cost of these pre-participation drug tests will again be going up \$5.00 for next school year to \$40.00 (from the current \$35.00). This represents a 33% increase from just five years ago (when it was \$30.00). Most major insurance companies do not cover the cost of the test for families.

Since the 2011-12 school year when I became athletic director, records show that we have never had an OCUSD student test positive on a pre-participation test reported by KSB. Additionally, during Mr. Crandall's tenure as athletic director prior to 2011, he stated that he could not ever recall a positive test on this type of exam as well. The reasons for this are likely twofold, 1) the majority of our student-athletes are "clean" and do not use the substances tested for on a regular basis or at all, and 2) if a student does use these substances, because they know the date, time, and location of the test well in advance, they are sure to be "clean" at the time of the test.

During the last complete year that data was available (2018-19), nearly 350 OHS & JH students had pre-participation tests done by KSB as part of the district requirement – again all with negative results. Our records indicate nearly 250 tests were paid for by families and almost 100 were paid for using district funds. The total cost break down is approximate as follows:

Family paid:	250 @ \$35.00 = \$8,750.00
Free lunch/district paid:	100 @ \$35.00 = \$3,500.00
Total	350 @ \$35.00 = \$12,250.00

With the cost of these tests going up nearly 15% again for next year, this will create an additional financial burden not only for our families but for the district as well. At \$40 per test, we anticipate nearly \$14,000 in total to be spent at current level of participation.

It is my belief that the cost to both district families and to the district itself of the pre-participation program is simply not worth the benefit (if there is one at all). Simply taking the approximate \$10,000 spent each year over the past decade equates to well over \$100,000 spent for pre-participation testing with not one positive result - ever. With the poverty level of our district families continuing to remain high, I feel eliminating the

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Blackhawk Center, 1101 Jefferson Street, Oregon, Illinois 61061 phone: 815-732-5300 fax: 815-732-7709  
[www.ocusd.net](http://www.ocusd.net)



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pre-participation program would provide a level of relief for for both our families and the district. It is my opinion that the pre-participation testing is simply not worth the rising financial burden.

In closing, I would also propose that the district's current random drug testing program **continue** in its current format as that program **does appear** to be a somewhat more effective deterrent. Although few and far between, there have been positive random tests over the years since students are chosen randomly and are unaware of the dates and times of testing.



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