

Guidelines for Student Drug-Testing in the Public Schools

See: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/guidance/health/drug_testing.pdf

The 2003 Virginia General Assembly amended sections 22.1-279.6 and 22.1-279.7 of the *Code of Virginia* to authorize the Virginia Board of Education to develop guidelines for local school boards concerning the implementation of voluntary or mandatory drug testing. The state statutory provisions do not require the adoption of drug testing programs by local school boards, but leave to local board discretion whether drug testing will be encouraged or required. Section 22.1-279.6 of the *Code* provides that “ a school board may, in its discretion, require or encourage drug testing in accordance with the Board of Education’s guidelines and model student conduct policies required by subsection A [of section 22.1-279.6] and the Board’s guidelines for student searches required by § 22.1-279.7.” The Board of Education’s guidance for procedures relating to voluntary and mandatory drug testing in schools are required by § 22.1-279.6 of the *Code* to include, but not be limited to, which groups may be tested, use of test results, confidentiality of test information, privacy considerations, consent to the testing, need to know, and release of the test results to the appropriate school authority.