

Importance of Drug Prevention to Achieving the “Career Ready” Goals of President Obama’s A Blueprint for Reform

Background

The Administration's overall goals for A Blueprint for Reform (Blueprint) are to have an accountability system that builds on college and career-ready standards. Due to the need for new hires to be able to pass pre-employment drug tests for thousands of careers and companies it is imperative that “career ready” includes drug prevention and intervention programming. With over 5% of current high school seniors reporting daily marijuana use and over 20% reporting that they have smoked marijuana in the past 30 days, the possibility of failing a drug test could impede the ability of many students from being hired by one of the more than 6,000 companies and scores of industries nationwide that require a pre-employment drug test.

Substance Use and “Career Ready” Are Inversely Linked

- Substance use and employability are very closely, but inversely linked. Without effective school based drug prevention/intervention programming, the goal of having U.S. high school graduates career ready may not be achievable.
 - According to the 2009 NIDA funded Monitoring the Future (MTF) Survey:
 - 5.2% of high school seniors use marijuana on a daily basis; and
 - 20.6% of high school seniors used marijuana in the past 30 days.
 - This means that if one of these students attempts to obtain a job from one of the more than 6,000 companies, and scores of industries nationwide that require a pre-employment drug test, they could fail and not be hired.
 - All high school aged students need to understand that workplace pre-employment and random drug testing are common, widely used, and that a positive test can result in losing job opportunities in many employment sectors and national companies that currently require drug testing.
 - In addition to effective drug prevention/intervention strategies, programs and activities, there must be a role in high school training standards about the reality of workplace policies and employers related to substance use and abuse.

Examples of Workplaces/Companies That Drug Test

Examples of the over 6,000 companies that drug test include:

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| ▪ 7-11 | ▪ Blue Cross Blue Shield |
| ▪ Abbot Labs | ▪ Boeing |
| ▪ ABC Television | ▪ BP |
| ▪ Abercrombie and Fitch | ▪ Citi Bank |
| ▪ Aetna | ▪ Coca Cola |
| ▪ Best Buy | ▪ Comp USA |
| ▪ Bethlehem Steel | ▪ Dupont |
| ▪ BJ Wholesale Club | |

- IBM
- General Electric
- General Motors
- Pepsi
- Pet Smart
- Pfizer
- Sears
- Target
- Texas Instruments, Inc.
- Verizon
- Wachovia
- Wal-mart
- Walt Disney World
- Weyhauser
- Whirlpool Corporation

A partial listing of the kinds of workplaces and jobs that drug test include:

- State and local government positions, especially law enforcement and fire fighters
- Military service.
- Federal Civilian Service in safety-sensitive jobs with National Security Clearances, and other public safety job requirements.
- Transportation Industries regulated by the Department of Transportation, including interstate truckers and commercial drivers license holders.
- Civilian nuclear power facility construction and operation.
- Larger employers, especially in manufacturing, but increasingly also in the retail, construction, finance, hotel and other services industries, on a company by company basis.

Types of Drugs Tested For Include:

- Marijuana/hashish (THC)
- Amphetamine and MDA
- Cocaine
- Opiates
- Methamphetamine and MDMA
- Phencyclidine (PCP)/hallucinogens
- Ecstasy (MDMA)

Conclusion

Given that substance use and being “career ready” are closely but inversely related, it is imperative that effective school based drug prevention and intervention programming be a key component of efforts in the reauthorization of HR 1. In addition, there must be a role in any future proposed High School training standards for preparing young adults about the reality of the workplace and the policies of employers related to substance abuse. Young adults need to understand that workplace pre-employment and random substance abuse testing are widely used and very well accepted by the great majority of job seekers. What needs to be provided to those entering the workforce from school is to understand why they could be subject to testing, what they would be tested for, how the results could be used then and in the future, and how to identify good employers as places to work by looking for the policies, practices, and resources to specifically help young adult worker.