

School Administrators Frequently Asked Questions

Illegal drugs on a school campus are a serious matter. The most effective means to a drug free campus is implementing a wide reaching, visible and effective method to target infractors. While random drug tests and other methods are options they do not address the most fundamental imperative-eliminate possession on school grounds and effectively identify those in need of intervention.

Sniff Dogs is a privately held narcotics detection firm with certified canines able to detect marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, LSD, Xanax, and ecstasy.

Sniff Dogs is an effective resource for drug prevention and bring with them a friendly culture in contrast to an "enforcement" persona. While local police may provide intermittent support, a critical success factor to drug prevention is regular random surveillance. Law enforcement protocols are extensive and do not allow school administrators with the flexibility a private firm offers. We are able to work directly with you to ensure your students and their parents feel the program is a positive, non-intrusive, threatening and a reliable form of drug prevention.

The dogs seem "over the top", how will the parents and community respond?

There may be an image of law enforcement and their canines; we are not that! We use friendly Labradors and present ourselves as a team helping to keep your campus safe. The search process is non disruptive to the students learning environment and by using a drug dog is less invasive then drug testing a random, perhaps innocent child. The first step in many schools is to conduct a school assembly enabling us to "demo" the dogs and deliver a supportive and caring message. The student's find them friendly and they are fascinated by how a canine is trained and "sniffs".

We get our K-9 services from the county or local police department.

That is one option. Before bringing in any type of K-9 unit a school should have clear understanding of the differences. You have a choice and you know what type of surveillance method will work best for your students, parents, and the community.

	Law Enforcement	Private K-9
Objective	Enforce the law	Proactive identification of "at risk" behavior
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited visits per year and searches are typically in a "lock down" scenario with uniformed, armed police and aggressive breed canines • Must go through prosecutors office • Rigorous legal protocols for search • Law enforcement team defines process • Legal charges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible schedules and search process with Labradors and a casually dressed team • Scheduled privately and on dates determined by school • School administration protocols for search allow for greater flexibility • Culture of safety and community • School administration manages issue adhering to the Attorney General guidelines.

We use Drug testing as a deterrent.

Drug testing can be one part of the overall drug prevention program but rarely does it satisfy the need to keep the entire student body safe. A random drug testing program is based on "luck" and involves potentially innocent children. Drug testing is often considered invasive and is retrospective, where detection is future facing and non-invasive. Drug detection finds the drugs on campus and only targets the location of an illegal substance (not a person). It is not based on random luck rather fact and the "sniff" sweeps are campus wide.

Where do you most often find drugs?

While we will always do a locker sweep the best hits have been cars, gym locker rooms, and random classrooms (where students have been asked to vacate while leaving behind backpacks and purses).

What if your dog "indicates?"

Your school administration accompanies the team and will manage the search allowing for greater flexibility and privacy than a search performed by law enforcement.

What is required to implement your program?

Your school handbook and school policy should already contain the policy on administrations right to search; you may want to update your policy to include the use of narcotics detecting canines. Please check your policy for the right to search a car in the schools parking lot.

If the use of canines is new to your school system a communication to parents and students is recommended. A critical success factor is stressing the importance of a drug free school and benefits of using a private detection firm. School assemblies, participation in your next parent's night or school board meeting will help the community meet the dogs and handlers and overcome a false perception of a "police state".



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