

Drug Testing

(Secondary Grade Levels Only)

Tarkington I.S.D. has a vital interest in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all of its students. In order to meet this goal, the District has implemented this Random Drug Testing Policy and practice. The Random Drug Testing program is intended to be part of the overall physical and mental education program of the District. Substance abuse is inconsistent with successful participation in school; therefore, this program includes appropriate measures for dealing with such challenges. Being under the influence of illegal drugs and / or alcohol poses serious health and safety risks both to the user and all those associated with the user. The District understands that its own health and welfare is dependent on the health and welfare of the individual students within the District. This policy is therefore an effort by the district to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all T.I.S.D. students.

OBJECTIVES: The drug testing program is not intended to be a punitive measure. Rather, the following objectives shall serve as the foundation for the program:

1. To promote the health and safety of all students,
2. To undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students involved in extra-curricular activities to refuse to use illegal drugs, and
3. To encourage students who use drugs to participate in drug treatment programs.

In addition, students shall be randomly tested throughout the school year. Covered activities shall include all school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

The purposes of the drug-testing program are to: prevent injury, illness, and harm resulting from the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol; help enforce a drug-free educational environment; deter student use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol; and educate students regarding the harm caused by the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol.

The District shall provide each parent and student a copy of the drug-testing policy and consent form prior to the student's participation in an affected activity.

The District shall conduct meetings with parents and interested student participants prior to the beginning of the school year. District employees shall explain the drug-testing program and review the policy and consent form.

An educational presentation on the harmful effects of drug and alcohol abuse shall be provided. Student attendance at the orientation meeting is mandatory. Parent attendance at an orientation meeting is not mandatory.

Before a student is eligible to participate in extracurricular activities or to obtain a parking pass, the student shall be required annually to sign a consent form agreeing to be subject

to the rules and procedures of the drug-testing program. If the student is under the age of 18, the student's parent or guardian shall also sign a consent form. If appropriate consent is not given, the students shall not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities or obtain a parking pass.

Drug test results shall be used only to determine eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities and for parking on District property. Positive drug test results shall not be used to impose disciplinary sanctions or academic penalties.

Nevertheless, nothing in this policy shall limit or affect the application of state law, local policy, or the Student Code of Conduct. A student who commits a disciplinary offense shall be subject to consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Drug test results shall be confidential and shall be disclosed only to the student, the student's parents, and designated District officials who need the information in order to administer the drug-testing program. Drug test results shall not be maintained with a student's academic record. Results shall not be otherwise disclosed except as required by law.

The Board shall contract with a certified drug-testing laboratory to conduct testing of students' urine samples.

Testing laboratories shall not release statistics regarding the rate of positive drug tests to any person or organization without consent of the District.

The drug-testing laboratory may test for the presence of:

1. Alcohol
2. Performance-enhancing substances, including anabolic steroids
3. Marijuana
4. Cocaine
5. Methaqualone
6. Benzodiazepines
7. Phencyclidine (PCP)
8. Methadone
9. Barbiturates
10. Propoxyphene
11. Amphetamines
12. Opiates
13. Metabolites of any of these substances

Personnel from the drug-testing laboratory shall collect urine samples under conditions that are no more intrusive than the conditions experienced in a public restroom. When selected for testing, a student shall be escorted to the school's testing site by a District employee and shall remain under employee supervision until the student provides a sample. Samples shall be produced by a student from behind a closed restroom stall. A

District employee of the same gender as the student shall be present when any samples are collected.

Random tests shall be conducted on as many as nine dates throughout the school year.

No less than three percent and no more than seven percent of the students participating in the program shall be randomly selected for each random test date.

The drug-testing laboratory shall use a random selection method to identify students chosen for random testing. Students shall not receive prior notice of the testing date or time.

A student who refuses to be tested when selected or who is determined to have tampered with a sample shall be deemed to have a positive test result and shall be subject to the appropriate consequences depending on previous positive test results, if any.

If a student is absent on the day of the random test, a sample shall be collected on the next random testing date.

An initial positive test shall be confirmed by a second test of the same specimen before being reported as positive.

Upon receiving results of a positive drug test, the District shall schedule a meeting with the student, the student's parent if the student is under the age of 18, and the coach or sponsor of the extracurricular activity to review the test results and discuss consequences.

The student or parent shall have two school days following the meeting to provide a medical explanation for a positive result.

Consequences of positive test results shall be cumulative through the student's enrollment in middle school and shall begin anew for high school.

A student who has a confirmed positive drug test shall be subject to the following consequences.

After the first offense, the student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity and/or parking privileges for 20 school days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results. The student shall also be required to complete a District-approved substance abuse/counseling program or show proof of private drug abuse counseling. The District shall provide parents with a list of no-cost District-approved substance/abuse counseling programs in the area. Private counseling shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian or the student if over age 18.

During the period of suspension, the student may participate in practices but not in any competitive activities or performances.

Before the student may regain admittance into extracurricular activities or regain parking privileges, the student shall be required to take an additional drug test. Financial provisions can be made to pay for the required drug testing for a student who is identified economically disadvantaged. If the results are negative, the student shall regain full privileges after the suspension period has passed.

The District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area.

After the second offense, the student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity and/or parking privileges for 45 school days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results. The student shall also be required to complete a District-approved substance abuse/counseling program or show proof of private drug abuse counseling. The

District shall provide parents with a list of no-cost District-approved substance/abuse counseling programs in the area. Private counseling shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian, or the student if over age 18.

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Before the student may regain admittance into extracurricular activities or regain parking privileges, the student shall be required to take an additional drug test. Financial provisions can be made to pay for the required drug testing for a student who is identified economically disadvantaged. If the results are negative, the student shall regain full privileges after the suspension period has passed.

The District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area.

After the third offense, the student shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity and/or parking privileges for 365 calendar days following the date the student and parent are notified of the test results. The student shall also be required to complete a District-approved substance abuse/counseling program or show proof of private drug abuse counseling. The District shall provide parents with a list of no-cost District-approved substance/abuse counseling programs in the area. Private counseling shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian, or the student if over age 18.

During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices.

Before the student may regain admittance into extracurricular activities or regain parking privileges, the student shall be required to take an additional drug test. Financial provisions can be made to pay for the required drug testing for a student who is identified economically disadvantaged. If the results are negative, the student shall regain full privileges after the suspension period has passed.

The District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area.

If a student's suspension from participation is not completed by the end of the semester, the student shall complete the assigned period of suspension during the following semester or during the first semester of the following school year.

Any student not involved in extracurricular activities and not seeking a parking permit shall be permitted to participate in the random drug-testing program with written consent of the student's parents. Upon receipt of any positive test result, the District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area.

A student or parent may appeal a decision made under this policy in accordance with FNG(LOCAL). The student shall be ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities and/or parking privileges while the appeal is pending.

[For further information, see policy FNF(LOCAL). Also see **Steroids**.]