

**Somerville Independent School District
Random Student Drug Testing Program Guidelines**

Current law allows school districts to implement a drug testing program if students voluntarily agree to participate in a random drug testing program as a condition for their participation in competitive extracurricular activities or to qualify for parking privileges. Student participation in these activities is a privilege and carries a responsibility to set a positive example for fellow students, Somerville ISD, and our community by avoiding the use of illegal drugs and/or alcohol. A consent form will require signatures from both the participating and their parent/guardian.

The objectives of the program are:

- 1) to take a proactive approach toward drugs and alcohol;
- 2) to provide for the health and safety of students;
- 3) to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use illegal drugs;
- 4) to eliminate the impact drugs and alcohol have on the brain so that students may achieve their full academic potential;
- 5) to encourage student users to participate in drug treatment programs;
and
- 6) to recognize the responsibility of students involved in extracurricular activities to serve as positive role models for their peers and as representatives of the high school and of the school district as a whole.

Definitions:

A. Illegal Drugs to be Included in Screening

Each high school student eligible for participation in the mandatory drug testing program will submit to urinalysis testing designed to detect the presence of any substance considered illegal by either federal or Texas law or that is controlled by the United States Food and Drug Administration including, but not limited to the following:

alcohol; amphetamines/methamphetamines (speed, uppers, diet pills); anabolic steroids (performance-enhancing drugs); barbiturates (downers, sleeping pills); bath salts; benzodiazepines (Valium, Librium); cannabinoid (marijuana); cocaine metabolites; hallucinogens (LSD); MDMA (Ecstasy); Methadone; nicotine; opiates (heroin, morphine, codeine); phencyclidine (PCP, angel dust); propoxyphene (Darvon); synthetic marijuana (Spice, K-2). Somerville ISD reserves the right to test for any and all illegal or controlled substances as determined at the discretion of the district.

B. Eligibility for Testing Program

Mandatory Student Participants. Any student participating in extracurricular or athletic programs (any time during the school year) sponsored by Somerville High School is eligible for and shall be included in the Drug Testing Program. This also includes any students participating in pre- or post- season practice during the school day or in meetings and practices held after school. The Drug Testing Program also includes any student who is afforded the privilege of obtaining a parking pass, which allows a student to drive and park a vehicle on the campus of Somerville High School.

Voluntary Student Participants. Any parent or guardian who wants his or her student who is not part of the Mandatory Student Participants, to be included in the Drug Testing Program may voluntarily give written consent for his/her student to be included in the program. If the student is eighteen (18) or over, the student must give written consent for inclusion in the Drug Testing Program.

Procedures for Students:

Written Consent. At the beginning of each school year, students who drive and park a vehicle

on district facilities as well as those participating in extracurricular activities shall complete and sign, in conjunction with the student's parent, guardian, or other person with lawful control, the District Student Code of Conduct and Informed Consent for Drug Testing. No student may drive or park on district premises or participate in practice or competition until this form has been properly executed and is on file with the district.

Student Selection for Random Testing. An independent laboratory will oversee the random selection of students.

Sample Collection:

Timing of Sample Collection. Random drug testing will be collected on the same day the student is selected for testing. Each student who is to be notified of selection for random testing shall proceed to the test site immediately. School officials will make every effort to ensure that sample collection does not interfere with a student's ability to receive academic instruction. If the student is not on school property at the time and date random collections are done, the student shall be tested at the next most convenient time for the district.

Privacy During Sample Collection. Students will be provided as much privacy as possible during the collection of urine samples. Each student, whether male or female, will provide a urine sample from an individual bathroom with the door closed. A representative of the laboratory will stand outside the bathroom door to retrieve the sample from the student.

Failure to Provide Sample. Any student who refuses to provide a urine sample will be subject to sanctions for positive testing.

Chain of Custody:

When collected, all urine specimens will adhere immediately to a strict chain of custody as set out by the district's selected testing laboratory.

Prescription Medication:

Students selected for testing who are taking prescription medications that may fall under the type of drugs being tested for may provide a copy of the prescription or doctor's verification in a sealed envelope to school personnel or laboratory technician. Students who refuse or fail to provide verification of prescription medication usage and test positive will be subject to the sanctions specified for "Positive Tests."

Qualification of Testing Laboratory:

The testing laboratory must be certified and follow all guidelines of the Department of Health and Human Services. The employees of the testing laboratory who handle SISD student specimens must have experience in toxicology testing and chain of custody procedures.

Scope of the Test:

The testing lab will be instructed to test for the drugs listed in the "Definitions" section of this policy. Student samples will not be tested for the presence of any substance other than the drugs listed in this policy nor will samples be tested for the existence of any medical condition.

Limited Access to Testing Results:

Notification from Testing Lab. The testing lab will be authorized to telephone results only to the campus principal or to a school district employee that the principal may designate.

Notification from School Principal or Designee. Test results for students may be known only to the student, parent/guardian, the superintendent, the principal, and the student's coaches or sponsors.

Written Test Results. Any written test results from the testing lab will be sent to the principal

only. All test results are to be kept in a secure location. Drug test results will be kept separately from a student's education records and destroyed when the individual is no longer a student in the Somerville Independent School District.

Non-Punitive Nature of Policy

No student shall be penalized academically for testing positive for illegal drugs. The results of drug tests pursuant to this policy will not be documented in any student's academic record. Information regarding the results of drug tests will not be disclosed to criminal or juvenile authorities absent legal compulsion by valid and binding subpoena or other legal process, which the district shall not solicit. In the event of service of any subpoena or legal process, the student's custodial parent or legal guardian will be notified in writing and/or by phone before response is made by the district.

Substance Use Violations:

A. Self-Referral

1. A student cannot make a self-referral on a day selected for random drug testing.
2. On a date other than a day selected for random drug testing, a student may refer himself or herself to the student's coach, sponsor, or principal.
3. When a student initiates a self-referral, a conference will be required between the student's parent/guardian, the student's coach or sponsor, and a school administrator.
4. After a self-referral, a student will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities or to drive and park on campus until the student has completed the procedures and sanctions listed under FIRST OFFENSE. Failure to complete the procedures and sanctions will result in the student being dropped from extracurricular activities and driving/parking privileges until completion of the sanctions. When eligible to return, the student must be drug tested at the next random drug testing date. The student must receive a negative test result to be reinstated.
5. A student may self-refer only one time during the student's high school career.

B. Sanctions for Positive Tests

Any student testing positive to a drug test will adhere to the following procedures and sanctions. Failure to complete procedures and sanctions will result in suspension of a student's eligibility to compete in extracurricular activities and suspension of the student's driving/parking privileges until completion of the terms in this policy. Consequences of positive test results shall be cumulative through the student's enrollment in the District. The parent/guardian will be notified of the positive test result and a conference with the campus principal or designee. The student will receive counseling by the district or must

show proof of external counseling. The following will also occur as a result of a positive result:

1st Offense: The student will be suspended from all competitive after school extracurricular activities and/or parking permit privileges for 15 school days. The student's suspension begins once the student and parents have been notified of a confirmed positive result. During the period of suspension, the student may participate in practices but not in any competitive activities or performances. The student will automatically be included in the next random drug test.

2nd Offense: The student will be suspended from all competitive after school extracurricular activities and/or parking permit privileges for 30 school days. The student's suspension begins once the student and parents have been notified of a confirmed positive result. During the period of suspension, the student may participate in practices but not in any competitive activities or performances. The student will automatically be included in the next random drug test.

3rd Offense: The student will be suspended from all competitive after school extracurricular activities and/or parking permit privileges for one calendar year from the date of the confirmation of the third positive test. The student must consent to a drug test at the end of the year suspension to regain eligibility.

4th Offense: The student will be suspended from all competitive after school extracurricular activities and/or parking permit privileges permanently from the date of the confirmation of the fourth positive test. This suspension will remain as long as the student is enrolled in SISD.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR COSTS

SISD Responsibility. The District will be responsible for the cost associated with the random drug testing and oversight of the contracted laboratory.

Student and Parental Responsibility. The student and/or the student's parent or guardian

will be responsible for any additional costs, including, but not limited to, any cost associated with an external counseling program following a positive test result.

CHALLENGING INITIAL TEST RESULTS

If a student's parent or guardian wants to contest the initial positive test results, then the independent testing laboratory selected by the district shall arrange for a split portion of the urine specimen to be tested by another laboratory. Any such split screening will be done at the parent or guardian's expense. Such a request must be made to the principal in writing within 48 hours from first notification of positive test results.

APPEALS PROCESS

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 while the appeal is pending.

The preceding student drug testing program procedural guidelines were developed in accordance with SISD Board policy FNF (LOCAL) as adopted on June 7, 2022 by the SISD Board of Trustees.