

New Waverly Independent School District Student Drug Testing Policy

Introduction

In June of 2002, the Supreme Court broadened the authority of public schools to test students for illegal drugs. Because of this ruling, schools are now allowed to randomly drug test all middle school and high school students who participate in extra-curricular activities.

Monitoring the Future, a national survey that tracks drug use among America's youth reported in 2002 more than half of all students had used illicit drugs by the time they finished high school. Adding to this dilemma is the 2002 *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse* that revealed, of the 4.5 million people age 12 and older who needed drug treatment, 23 percent were teenagers. Here in Walker County according to the Justice of the Peace Court, citable offenses by juveniles involving drugs, alcohol, and tobacco has been on a steady rise since 2001. These facts about our youth and dangerous drugs are alarming.

New Waverly Independent School District is committed to providing our youth a safe and drug free environment in which to grow and flourish. Because of this commitment, New Waverly Independent School District has implemented a drug-testing program for all students participating in extra-curricular activities. Research shows that people who make it through their teenage years without using tobacco, alcohol, or drugs are much less likely to start them when they are older. If testing can keep kids off drugs and alcohol, if it can help free young minds for learning and allow growing bodies to escape the devastating cycle of dependence or addiction, it will be a valuable and important tool against drugs.

New Waverly Independent School District has not implemented a drug-testing program to identify and punish students who have made bad decisions about drugs. This program has been established to give kids who face daily pressure from their peers to experiment with drugs an out by participating in extra-curricular activities. If a student has already made a bad decision about drugs, this program will identify them so that a drug intervention program can be implemented to prevent future drug use.

Testing Procedures

New Waverly Independent School District will test for illegal drugs including, but not limited to, Amphetamines, Cocaine, Opiates, Phencyclidine (PCP), Tetrahydrocannabinoides (Marijuana), Steroids, and alcohol. Any student in grades 7-12 representing New Waverly Independent School District in any school related extra-curricular activity will be initially tested at the beginning of the school year. A parent/student consent form must be signed prior to testing. Students not tested at the beginning of the year must be tested prior to participation in a school-sponsored activity, including new students. Each student in grades 7-12 will be eligible for random drug testing during the school year. A pre-determined number of students will be selected for

random drug testing at least six times a year. The method of screening is by a certified Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) laboratory using a urinalysis. Testing will be administered by a certified collection technician. Failure to produce a sample for any reason in the allotted time period not to exceed 3 hours will be considered a positive screening. Non-compliance by any student will be considered a violation of policy and grounds for removal from extra-curricular activities. Students refusing to be tested will be subject to sanctions as if testing positive. Re-admission to extra-curricular activities will be contingent upon the student agreeing to participate in the **drug testing program and a negative result**. A confirmation test shall be administered by the certified lab to confirm the initial positive test results. All specimens will be identified by the student's assigned number. All offenses are cumulative for the student's career. Students who test positive or cannot provide a sample will be subject to the following sanctions.

Sanctions for Positive Testing

First Offense:

1. Notification of parent or guardian.
2. Student must complete a drug education program, specified by the District, at the expense of the student.
3. Suspension from extra-curricular activities for 30 calendar days, beginning immediately upon verification of results.
4. Students must be retested at the end of 30 days and their **system clear (negative) of any drugs before reinstatement**.
5. A letter of intent to remain in extra-curricular programs must be signed by the student and parent. Students may remain in school programs to practice at the discretion of school officials, but will not be allowed to participate in any competition until student has met all guidelines for reinstatement.

Second Offense:

1. Notification of parent or guardian.
2. Student must complete a drug education program, specified by the District, at the expense of the student.
3. Suspension from extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the semester or 60 calendar days, whichever is longer.
4. Students must be retested at least twice during the suspension period, one randomly and once at the end of the suspension period. **Students must test clear (negative) of any drugs before reinstatement**.
5. A letter of intent to remain in extra-curricular programs must be signed by the student and parent. Students may remain in school programs to practice at the discretion of school officials, but will not be allowed to participate in any competition until student has met all guidelines for reinstatement.

Third Offense:

1. Notification of parent or guardian.
2. Suspension from extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the student's high school career.

Confidentially

The collection and coding of the specimen samples are done by an independent lab technician and are executed in a manner insuring total confidentiality and proper identification. Tests results are known only by the student, the parent/guardian, the principal, the superintendent, and head coach/sponsor. All test results shall be destroyed upon graduation.

Appeal

A parent or guardian may appeal a positive test result by the following procedures described in board policy FNG (local).

General Questions Concerning Drug and Alcohol Testing At New Waverly Independent School District

- 1. What is the District's purpose in administering drug tests to students in extra-curricular activities?**
This program has been established to give individuals who face daily pressure from their peers to experiment with drugs an out by participating in extra-curricular activities.
- 2. Why are we not testing all students?**
Testing of all students does not have legal backing of the Supreme Court at this time.
- 3. Who will be administering the student drug testing?**
New Waverly Independent School District has contracted with *Southwest Consortium*, a company that specializes in student drug testing. Their method of screening is certified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- 4. What exactly does "random" testing mean?**
Our testing company, *Southwest Consortium*, is sent the names of eligible students for drug testing purposes. Six times during the school year, a computer generated list with approximately 60 students names will be drug tested. These lists come directly from the testing company without local control.
- 5. Who is informed when a test comes back positive?**
Parent/guardian, student, principal, superintendent, and head coach/sponsor.
- 6. What happens if a student tests positive and is on prescription medicine?**
Parents should list all prescription drugs and dosages on the authorization form. The testing company and doctor who prescribe the medicine will be consulted as to the possibilities for a positive test. If their opinions/facts coincide, then a positive test will revert to a negative.
- 7. Why a "three offense" policy?**
The District believes extra-curricular activities are a positive experience for all students. Students are better served by continuing in extra-curricular activities rather than being excluded. Repeated violations result in more restrictive penalties.
- 8. What if my son or daughter refused to take a New Waverly Independent School District extra-curricular activity drug test?**
Non-compliance by any student will be considered a violation of policy and grounds for removal from extra-curricular activities.

**New Waverly Independent School District Random Drug Testing
Authorization Form**

Name of Extra-curricular Organization(s) You Plan to Participate in:

Participant's Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the New Waverly Independent School District's Random Drug Testing Policy. I recognize and understand that I will be asked to provide a urine sample for drug analysis and could be randomly selected to provide another urine sample during the school year. I consent to any such testing conducted as part of the district's drug testing policy. I have been given the right to ask questions about the drug testing policy, and I fully understand its provisions.

Listed below are the prescription drug(s) and dosage(s) that my son/daughter takes on a permanent basis:

Drug Name _____ Dosage _____
Drug Name _____ Dosage _____

_____ My son/daughter does not take any prescription medication on a permanent basis.

CONSENT FOR TESTING:

Participant's
Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian
Signature _____ Date _____

Note: This document must be signed and returned before your child can be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities.

HAVE YOUR CHILD RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO HIS/HER SCHOOL'S FRONT OFFICE OR COACH.