

DeLeon Independent School District

Mandatory Student Drug Testing Program

Board Adopted June 12, 2006

DISD encourages all students to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities, but believes the opportunity to participate is a privilege offered to eligible students on an equal opportunity basis. The use of alcohol or other drugs by students participating in extracurricular activities presents a hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of the student participant.

Required Participation

To be eligible to participate in any school-sponsored extracurricular activity, a secondary student (grades 7-12) must agree to participate in a drug-testing program that includes a mandatory test of all participants at the beginning of each semester and random testing during the school year. "School-sponsored extracurricular activity" means, all interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, drill team, academic clubs, special interest clubs, musical performances, dramatic productions, student government, and any other activity or group that participates in contests, competitions, or community service projects on behalf of or as a representative of the District.

The results of any drug test administered under this policy will be used only to determine eligibility for participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities. They will not be used to invoke any other disciplinary action on a student. Results will be kept confidential and disclosed only to the student, his or her parents/guardians, and school officials designated by the Superintendent. Results will not be placed in student records. Students will not be penalized in any other way. Results will not be used by the school to take further actions against the student other than suspension from participating in extracurricular activities.

However, student participants in school-sponsored extracurricular activities will not at any time during the school year use, possess, sell, distribute, or be under the influence of any illegal drug, anabolic steroid, or alcohol.

Any student who is under the influence of, in possession of, or distributing illegal drugs or alcohol on school property or at school events is subject to the DISD Student Code of Conduct and all disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed.

Meetings with potential student participants and their parents or guardians will be scheduled throughout the year including a meeting in the Spring for students desiring to participate in the following school year and at the beginning of each semester for students desiring to participate in activities during that semester who did not participate in an earlier session. The drug testing plan will be discussed and copies of the policy, procedures, and the consent form will be provided for each participant at that time.

Student participants must sign a consent form agreeing to participate in the drug-testing program. The consent form must also be signed by the student's parent or guardian before the beginning of the school year, semester, or specific activity, e.g., any form of practicing. Consent forms are valid for the current school year only and must be renewed annually in order for the student to continue participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities. If the student participant or his or her parent or guardian declines to sign the consent form, the student will not be permitted to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

Testing & Testing Procedures

AccuChem, a licensed third party administrator has been selected by the Superintendent and approved by the Board to conduct all testing for the presence of drugs in student urine samples. The Superintendent is the program manager who will administer the program with the selected drug testing provider.

Substances specifically tested for will include substances that are illegal to buy, possess, use, sell, or distribute under state or federal law and alcohol, including prescription drugs. These substances include marijuana, cocaine, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, phencyclidine (PCP), methadone, barbiturates, propoxyphene, amphetamines, opiates, and metabolites of any of these substances; and performance enhancing substances.

Samples will be taken under conditions that are no more intrusive to students than the conditions experienced in a public restroom.

Any student who refuses to be tested during a semester or who tampers with, or assists others in tampering with, any sample will be removed from extracurricular activities.

All students desiring to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities will be tested at the beginning of the school year, semester, or specific activity. Testing will occur at a time, place, and date scheduled by the principal in cooperation with the testing agency, and without prior announcement.

Random tests will be conducted from time to time during the school year or semester. Students will be assigned numbers running consecutively. A record of the numbers and the students to whom they are assigned will be maintained under confidential conditions in the principal's office. Students will not be notified in advance of any drug test. When selected for testing, students will be escorted to the school's testing site by a school employee and will remain under employee supervision until a sample is provided. If a student is in school and fails to report for testing at the appointed time, he or she will be removed from the activity.

All positive results may be confirmed by a second, more definitive test before being reported as positive. When there is a confirmed positive test result, the following steps will be taken:

The school official to whom results are reported will notify the principal and athletic director, if the student is in interscholastic athletics.

The principal will notify the student's parent or guardian, the student, and the sponsor or coach of the affected activity. The principal will inform parents of the opportunity to respond to a positive test. The principal will schedule a meeting with the student assistance coordinator, the parent or guardian, the student, and the student's physician, to develop a plan of assistance for the student.

At the meeting, the principal will give the student and parent a copy of the test results and provide them an opportunity to offer an explanation for the results. Parents may also request a retest of the original specimen to confirm the results, but the retest will be at the parent's expense. A request to retest must be made in writing within 48 hours of the meeting with the principal, and payment for the retest must be included with the request.

Sanctions Imposed If Test Are Positive

Should a student test positive, the principal shall notify the student, the parent, and the appropriate extra-curricular sponsor. If a positive test is the result of a prescription drug for the student, the student shall remain eligible. If a confirmed positive test is not a result of a prescription drug for the student, the student shall be removed from active participation in practice or competition until the following criteria are fulfilled:

1. A minimum of 14 calendar days has elapsed;
2. Satisfactory completion of the assistance plan (counseling) is verified by the student assistance coordinator (counselor or principal); and
3. The student is retested by the District's approved testing agency with a negative result.

If a student tests positive, receives counseling, and is reinstated, her or she shall be retested once each month for the remainder of the school year for as long as he or she participates in an extra-curricular activity or any other school program where testing is required.

An initial positive test shall result in a 14-day counseling period. A second positive test, regardless of the school year in which it occurs, shall result in a 30-day counseling period. A third positive test, regardless of the school year in which it occurs, shall result in the student remaining ineligible for one calendar year.

The coach may allow the student to continue to attend team practice, but the athlete shall not dress out or participate.

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.

Testing of Student Drivers

Students who drive to and from school and who park on school property will be subject to the same initial and random drug testing requirements as students who participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities. In addition to any other sanctions that may be imposed based on a student driver's participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities, a student who has a positive test result will not be permitted to park on school property for 30 school days. After this 30-day period and upon subsequent testing with a negative test result, the student will be permitted to park on school property.