

Random Drug-Testing Program Questions & Answers

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Why did Waller ISD institute a drug-testing policy?

Waller ISD is concerned about the academic, physical and emotional well-being of all its students, and believes that it has a responsibility to assist students in dealing with a variety of teen issues, including drug and alcohol use. The drug-testing program is only one part of a comprehensive Safe and Drug Free Schools and Community program. It is designed to identify students in need of help and to provide them, and their parents, with the necessary resources to deal with substance abuse and other issues.

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2. What are the overall objectives of the drug-testing program?

1. To ensure the health and safety of all students who represent the District in any competitive afterschool extracurricular activities;
2. To serve as a deterrent to the use of illegal drugs, performance-enhancing drugs, and/or alcohol among the student body;
3. To offer students a credible means to resist peer pressure as it relates to the use of illegal drugs, performance-enhancing drugs, and/or alcohol;
4. To provide a ready source of assistance to any student who may be using illegal drugs, performance-enhancing drugs, and/or alcohol.

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3. Which students will be subject to random drug testing?

All students in grades 7-12 who participate or intend to participate in competitive afterschool extracurricular activities and/or drive a vehicle to and from school. Any parent or legal guardian of a student who is not involved in competitive afterschool extracurricular activities and/or drives a vehicle to or from school may add their student's name to the pool for random selection. Contact the campus administrator for additional details. The district-wide identified activities and organizations include, but are not limited to: (also, see note below regarding activities specific to a campus)

Business Professionals of America	Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)
Cheerleaders (mascot)	Language Clubs (i.e. Spanish Club)
Class Officers	National Honor Society
Color Guard	Skate Club
Drill Team	Soccer Club
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)	Theatre Arts
Future Farmers of America (FFA)	UIL Activities (including: Athletic, Academic Competitions and Fine Arts)

*****Please note:** In addition to the district-wide list of identified activities to be included in the random drug-testing program, campus administrators will also identify campus-specific competitive afterschool extracurricular activities to be included in the District's random drug-testing program.

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4. What is the definition of a competitive afterschool extracurricular activity?

In keeping with local guidelines, competitive afterschool extracurricular activities are defined as school-sponsored, school-related competitive activities, including identified elective offices, or participation in identified clubs, teams, or organizations.

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5. Does a student need to have a signed consent form authorizing participation in the random drug-testing program to tryout for a competitive afterschool extracurricular activity or run for an office included in the random drug-testing program?

Yes. The student needs to have a random drug-testing consent form on file at the school that has been signed by both the student and parent/guardian to tryout for a competitive afterschool extracurricular activity. However, if the student does not make the team or receive the position, he/she will not be placed into the random drug-testing pool for that activity. The student may already be in the pool if he/she has participated in another activity or parks on campus.

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6. What is the cost of the drug testing to the District?

Undetermined at this time. The cost of drug testing for the 2006-2007 school year depends on the company we pick.

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7. Who will provide the drug-testing services?

The District will contract with a vendor to be determined.

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8. What does the drug-testing process include?

The drug-testing procedures include a four-step process: collection, screening, confirmation, and review.

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9. What method of drug-testing will be used?

Urinalysis will be the method used. This method, which is the most commonly used for drug-testing, is recommended because of its accuracy and reliability. We may use hair samples if student can't give a urine sample.

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10. How often will drug-testing be done?

Drug-testing will take place on a monthly basis at the high school and junior high level.

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11. Can a student be chosen for drug-testing more than once?

Yes. Because the selection for drug-testing is random and suspicionless, a student may be selected for drug-testing more than once during the year.

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12. What if my child ends his or her participation in the extracurricular activity in the middle of the year/season, will they still be included in the drug-testing pool?

If a student elects to quit all extracurricular activities and/or not have campus parking privileges, the drug-testing vendor will be contacted by the District through an activity list update, and the student's name will be omitted from the random drug-testing pool.

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COLLECTION AND TESTING

1. Do parents have to sign a consent form for their child's testing?

Yes. Both the parent and student must sign the consent form authorizing the student's participation in the District's drug-testing program to participate in afterschool extracurricular activities and/or to hold a parking permit.

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2. What if I don't consent to my child being tested, will they still be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities or have driving privileges?

No. To participate in a competitive afterschool extracurricular activity or have parking privileges, both the parent and the student must consent to drug-testing.

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3. How will students be selected for drug-testing?

Selection for drug-testing is random and suspicionless. Students who are identified for inclusion for drug-testing will be placed in a pool from which the random selections will be made. The vendor chosen to conduct the drug-testing will be responsible for randomly selecting students from established pools, using electronic methods.

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4. What happens if a student is selected for drug-testing and refuses to be tested?

Students who are selected for drug-testing and refuse to participate will immediately lose competitive afterschool extracurricular activities and/or driving privileges.

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5. If the student is chosen for drug-testing, but is absent that day, will he/she be tested upon returning to school?

Students who are not present on a day they are selected for drug-testing will be replaced by another student from the pool, and will not be tested as part of that pool when they return to school. Any student who has been notified that he/she is selected for random testing but who, because of illness or any other legitimate reason, leaves school before the test is performed, shall be included in the next campus random drug-testing. A student who is truant after being notified that he/she has been selected for drug-testing will be considered as having tested positive. Refusal on the part of any student to participate in a scheduled or random drug test shall be considered a basis for ineligibility to participate in afterschool extracurricular activities and/or for a parking permit.

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6. Who will oversee the sample collection process?

The vendor's employees will oversee the collection of samples for testing.

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7. How will the student's privacy be ensured during collection?

A vendor's employee will be in the collection area to ensure the validity of the sample; however, the monitor will be positioned in a way as to give the student his or her privacy.

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8. Where on campus will the samples be collected?

Samples will be collected in a suitable restroom collaboratively chosen by the campus principal or designee and a representative from the drug-testing vendor to be determined.

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9. How many samples will be taken?

One sample is collected and that sample will be divided into two parts in the student's presence. Sample A will be used for the initial testing. If the test result of Sample A is positive for drugs or alcohol, a confirmation test will be conducted on Sample A. Sample B will be frozen and reserved for outside testing in the event of a challenge of the positive test result by the student or parent/guardian. All costs associated with the second half of the sample will be the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian.

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10. For what substances will students be tested?

Drug-testing will include, but is not limited to, the following substances:

Amphetamines/methamphetamines (speed, uppers, diet pills)	Xanax
Barbiturates, (downers, sleeping pills)	Methodone
Benzodiazepines (Valium, Librium)	Opiates (heroin, morphine, codeine)
Cannabinoid (marijuana)	Phencyclidine (PCP, angel dust)
Ethanol (alcohol)	Propoxyphene (Darvon)
Steroids (performance enhancing drugs)	Cocaine metabolite

The District shall reserve the right to test for any and all illegal or controlled substances.

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11. Will drug-testing detect over-the-counter medications or prescription medications?

No. Over-the-counter medications are not targeted in the District's drug-testing program.

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CONFIRMATION AND REVIEW

1. What happens if a student tests positive for drugs/alcohol?

If a student tests positive, then the company chosen will first further test the specimen using Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) or other acceptable methodology. If the specimen still tests positive, the vendor will contact the student's parent or guardian to determine whether there is an alternative medical explanation for the positive test result. Parents may choose to have the second half of the sample taken during the collection sent to a lab mutually agreed upon by the parent and vendor for independent testing. All costs associated with testing the second half of the sample will be the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian.

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2. Will I receive notification if my child tests negative?

No. Parents are only contacted by vendor contact if a student tests positive for drugs or alcohol.
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3. What happens if my child receives a “false positive?”

There is no such thing as a false positive. A test result is either positive or negative. Parents will be contacted in the event of a positive test and asked if there is an alternative medical or other explanation for a positive result, i.e., a prescription medication.

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4. Is there a confirmation test on the specimens that test positive on the immunological screening?

Yes. Any specimens that test positive will be confirmed by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) or other acceptable methodology.

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5. How confidential are the drug-testing results?

The vendor retains control of all student records related to drug-testing and will only communicate information related to a positive test result to the parent or guardian.

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CONSEQUENCES

1. What sanctions are imposed for a positive test?

Please see the Local Policy.

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2. Is there an appeals process?

Yes. A student and/or parent/guardian may choose to have the second half of the sample taken during collection sent to a lab mutually agreed upon by the student/parent and vendor for independent testing. All costs associated with testing the second half of the sample will be the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian. A written request to appeal a positive test result must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee within three days of receiving oral notice from the authorized representative of the results. A student and/or parent may appeal a suspension under the drug-testing policy by filing a written complaint according to the provisions and timelines as set for in policy FNG (LOCAL) as related to STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS. Retesting must be completed within 7 calendar days. An appeal does not negate the implementation of the policy.

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3. Are there disciplinary consequences for testing positive?

None other than the consequences listed on the attached list of sanctions. The drug-testing policy is intended to identify those students in need of assistance in dealing with drug and alcohol issues. Students who test positive for drugs or alcohol will not receive any additional disciplinary consequences. The result of testing positive for drugs or alcohol is the loss of competitive afterschool extracurricular activity privileges and/or obtaining parking permits as previously described.

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4. Does a student testing positive provide “reasonable suspicion to conduct a locker or vehicle search”?

No. The only consequences from testing positive are suspension from participation in competitive afterschool extracurricular activities and/or loss of driving privileges as previously described.

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5. Will law enforcement be notified or intervene in any way in case of a positive result?

No. The only consequences from testing positive are suspension from participation in competitive afterschool extracurricular activities and/or loss of driving privileges as previously described.

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STUDENT ASSISTANCE

1. Will counseling be made available for students who test positive for drugs or alcohol? How about their parents?

Yes. We will have Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse.

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2. Will the District provide any drug rehabilitation or recovery services?

No. The District will not provide any rehabilitation or recovery counseling, or provide funding for a student to attend such a program. The District will work with the family to identify appropriate counseling resources if necessary.

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3. Is a student required to participate in a school-sponsored counseling program, or can they participate in a counseling program of his/her choice?

Students are free to participate in an external program, but they must show proof of participation if the external program they have opted over the school-sponsored Fort Bend Regional Council. All costs associated with an external program are the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian.

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4. Can a student choose not to participate in any type of assistance or counseling program?

Only if the student testing positive elects to withdraw from all competitive afterschool extracurricular activities and/or forfeit all campus driving privileges.

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5. Where can I go to get more information about drug-testing in schools and about substance abuse in general?

The Office of National Drug Control Policy, <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/>, provides information and resources on policies regarding drug-testing in schools, as well as information on substance abuse.

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