

Sterling City ISD
Student Drug Testing Program
2023-2024

Rational:

The District has determined that the use of illegal drugs and alcohol among students in grades 7-12 continues to be a problem in the school and community. Data indicates that such use is prevalent within this segment of the student population. The District has determined a need to implement a student drug-testing program in grades 7-12 (6th grade may be tested if they play UIL sponsored events) to ensure the safety of all students. The use of illegal drugs/alcohol could pose a significant threat to the health and safety of all students who participate in extra-curricular activities and to students who drive vehicles on District property. The program is effective starting with the 2005-206 school year.

Drug-Testing

The District requires drug testing of any student in grades 7-12 who chooses to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities, or who chooses to drive and park on District property.

A student participating in these activities shall be tested for the presence of illegal drugs and alcohol at the beginning of each school year, prior to joining an extracurricular program, and/or parking on District facilities at any time during the school year. In addition, students shall be randomly tested throughout the school year.

Definition of School-Sponsored Extracurricular Activities

School-sponsored extracurricular activity means, without limitations, all interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, pep squad, academic clubs, special interest clubs, musical performances and competition, dramatic productions, student government, fine arts organizations, industrial technology and agriculture organizations including 4-H, and any other activity or group that participates in contests, competitions, or community service events on behalf of or as a representative of the District.

Driving Privileges

Driving and parking on campus by students enrolled in school is a privilege and not necessarily a right. The privilege of driving and parking on campus is considered the same as the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities. Therefore, the District has chosen to include students who choose to drive to school and park on campus with those who choose to participate in extracurricular activities in that they, too, will be subject to the provisions of random drug testing policy for extracurricular activities as adopted by the Board.

Purpose of the Drug-Testing Program

1. To prevent injury, illness, and harm resulting from the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol.
2. To help enforce a drug-free educational environment
3. To deter student use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol
4. To educate students regarding the harm caused by the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol
5. To provide a ready resource for the support and assistance to any student who may be using illegal drugs and/or alcohol.

Distribution of Policy

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

Orientation Meetings

The District shall conduct a meeting with parents and interested student participants at the beginning of the fall semester. 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 an orientation meeting is required. Parent attendance at an orientation meeting is encouraged, but not mandatory.

Consent

Before a student is eligible to participate in extracurricular activities or receive a parking permit, 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 student shall not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.

Use of Results

Drug test results shall be used to determine eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities and/or to receive a parking permit. 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.

Confidentiality

Drug-testing 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.

Testing Laboratory

The Board shall contract with a certified drug-testing laboratory to conduct testing of students. Testing laboratories shall not release statistics regarding the rate of positive drug tests to any person or organization without consent of the District.

Screening Parameters

This policy provides for random testing for drugs and alcohol. For purposes of this policy, the term drug shall be defined as any substance considered illegal by either federal or Texas Law or that is controlled by the United States Food and Drug Administration and used illegally. These substances include but are not limited to the following:

- Amphetamines/methamphetamines (speed, uppers, diet pills)
- Barbiturates (downers, sleeping pills)
- Benzodiazepines (Valium, Librium)
- Tetrahydrocannabinols (marijuana)
- Cocaine metabolite
- Ethanol (alcohol)
- Hallucinogens (LSD)
- Methaqualone
- Opiates (heroin, morphine, codeine)
- Phencyclidine (PCP, angel dust)
- Propoxyphene (Darvon)
- Steroids (performance enhancing drugs)
- Nicotine (see "Consequences for Positive Nicotine Test")

The District shall reserve the right to test for any and all illegal or controlled substances or as determined at the discretion of the District. A student who is tested for a controlled substances that has a valid prescription for that substance shall not be determined to be in violation of this policy. Students who are on medication that may cause a positive test result for a controlled substance must turn in a copy of the prescription label on the bottle and keep school officials informed of any medication changes.

Collection Procedures

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. A District employee of the same gender as the student shall be present when any samples are collected. If a student is unable to produce a urine sample, other approved drug testing methods, including hair analysis, or breath analysis may be used at the student's/parent's expense.

Random Testing

Random tests shall be conducted on as many as ten dates throughout the school year. No less than five percent and no more than fifteen percent 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.

Refusal to Test or Tampering

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.

Positive Test Results

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, and the Secondary Principal to review the test results and discuss consequences. The student shall have 5 school days following the meeting to provide a medical explanation for a positive result. Medical reviews from the testing company are available at the parents' expense.

Consequences for Positive Drug Test

Consequences of positive test results shall be cumulative through the student's enrollment in the District and will be effective following the parent meeting or upon completion of the medical review if applicable. A student who has a confirmed positive drug test shall be subject to the following consequences:

First Offense:

- The student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity for a 3 week period or 15 school days. The student will miss all activities of extracurricular activity for that 3 week period. During the suspension, the student shall be allowed to participate in practice, but may not compete.
- The student shall be suspended from driving and parking a vehicle on District property for 30 calendar days.
- The student must remain on campus during lunch for 30 calendar days.
- The student shall be subject to testing for 1 calendar year.
- The District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area. Student and parents must have a mandatory meeting with a licensed chemical dependency counselor within 30 calendar days.
- The Student Assistance Process will be implemented to assist high school students who have a positive drug test.

Second Offense:

- The student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity for a 6 week period or 30 school days. The student will miss all activities of extracurricular activity for that 6 week period. During the suspension, the student shall be allowed to participate in practice, but may not compete.
- The student shall be suspended from driving and parking a vehicle on District property for 30 calendar days.
- The student must remain on campus during lunch for 30 calendar days.
- The student shall be subject to testing for 1 calendar year.
- The District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area. Student and parents must have a mandatory meeting with a licensed chemical dependency counselor within 30 calendar days.
- The Student Assistance Process will be implemented to assist high school students who have a positive drug test.

Third Offense

- The student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity for 1 calendar year (365 days). The student will miss all activities of extracurricular activity for 365 calendar days. During the suspension, the student shall be allowed to participate in practice, but may not compete.
- The student shall be suspended from driving and parking a vehicle on District property for 1 calendar year or 365 calendar days.
- The student must remain on campus during lunch for 1 calendar year or 365 calendar days.
- The student shall be subject to testing for 1 calendar year.
- The District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area. Student and parents must have a mandatory meeting with a licensed chemical dependency counselor within 30 calendar days.
- The Student Assistance Process will be implemented to assist high school students who have a positive drug test.
- The suspension period may be reduced to 180 calendar days if the student enrolls in and completes a District-approved drug rehabilitation program at the parents' or student's expense.

Fourth Offense

- The student shall be removed from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of their school career.
- The student shall be suspended from driving and parking on campus for the remainder of their school career.
- The student's off campus lunch privilege will be revoked for the remainder of their school career.
- Upon parental request, the student may continue to be drug tested for the remainder of their school career.
- The District shall notify the parent and student of drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area.

Consequences for a Positive Nicotine Test

First Offense

- The parent will be notified and the student must take the ADACCV 3-4 hour training module.
The student must present a certificate of completion 5 days after meeting with the Secondary Principal.
- The student will be suspended from driving and parking a vehicle on District property for 30 calendar days.
- The student must remain on campus during lunch for 30 calendar days.
- The student shall be subject to testing for 1 calendar year.

Second Offense

- The student will be suspended from extra-curricular contests for 5 calendar days.
- The student will be suspended from driving and parking a vehicle on District property for 30 calendar days.
- The student must remain on campus during lunch for 30 calendar days.
- The student shall be subject to testing for 1 calendar year.
- The student will meet with the School Counselor.

Third Offense

- The student will be suspended from extra-curricular contests for 10 calendar days.
- The student will be suspended from driving and parking a vehicle on District property for 30 calendar days.
- The student must remain on campus during lunch for 30 calendar days.
- The student shall be subject to testing for 1 calendar year.
- The student will meet with the School Counselor.

Fourth Offense

- The student will be suspended from extra-curricular contests for 30 calendar days.
- The student will be suspended from driving and parking a vehicle on District property for 30 calendar days.
- The student must remain on campus during lunch for 30 calendar days.
- The student shall be subject to testing for 1 calendar year.
- The student will meet with the School Counselor.

In the event that the extra-curricular suspension occurs during an “open” week or during a week of no extra-curricular events, the student will be suspended from the next extra-curricular contest as follows:

Second Offense: 1 extra-curricular contest

Third Offense: 2 extra-curricular contests

Fourth Offense: 4 extra-curricular contests