

Random Drug-testing for Students in Extracurricular Programs

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) **Why institute a drug-testing program?** *Generally speaking, there are two goals: prevention (preferably) and intervention (if necessary):*
 - a. *Help deter students from potential drug use by giving them yet another reason to decline any invitation to participate in the illegal use of drugs and/or alcohol*
 - b. *Help our staff identify and support students who might be in need of additional assistance if/when drug or alcohol use has already begun*
 - c. *Work collectively with parents and professionals to address problems as soon as possible, and hopefully before a mistake becomes an addiction*

- 2) **Are all students required to participate in the District's random drug-testing program?** *Only students in grades 7-12 choosing to participate in extracurricular activities are required to participate in the random drug-testing program.*

- 3) **Which programs count as "extracurricular?"** *All school-sponsored organizations or groups participating in contests, competitions, or activities functioning on behalf of or serving as representatives of Springtown Middle School or Springtown High School.*

- 4) **Is Springtown ISD unique in requiring students involved in extracurricular activities to participate in a random drug-testing program?** *Absolutely not. A high percentage of the districts our students compete against have a similar board policy [see FNF(LOCAL) for each district]. A survey of the schools our students competed against last year quickly revealed 35 Districts with a similar random drug-testing program included in local policy.*

- 5) **Didn't our student-athletes' parents already sign an agreement with UIL permitting their child to be a part of a random drug-testing program?** *Yes and no; the UIL does require participants to sign a random drug-testing permission form, but only for anabolic steroids. The UIL program does not include testing for the other drugs and alcohol that the ISD's program will include.*

- 6) **Why are parents being asked to sign another form?** *Unless a student is 18 years of age or otherwise emancipated, a parent or guardian must grant consent for a student to participate in the District's random drug-testing program. Students hoping to participate in an extracurricular activity will also be required to sign the consent form, regardless of their age.*

- 7) **Where can a parent or student obtain a consent form?** *Consent forms are available through the principals' offices at Springtown Middle School and Springtown High School as well as online through the District's website. ([Linked here](#))*

- 8) **Will a positive test result in ISS, DAEP, or expulsion?** *No. The results of the testing will only be used to determine eligibility for extracurricular activities; no other disciplinary action or*

academic penalty will be taken. The results will not be part of any academic record, nor a student's permanent file.

- 9) **Who will administer the testing?** *An Occupational Health Services Agreement exists between Springtown ISD and Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital. The Hospital will perform the services in accordance with standards in the industry for the same or similar services and in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Statistical data cannot be released by the Hospital; strict confidentiality agreements are in place.*
- 10) **Will a nurse draw blood to use for the test?** *Absolutely not. This rumor never had any basis; the "Quick Drug Test Screen" will require a urine sample.*
- 11) **What substances may be screened?** *Alcohol, marijuana, opiates, cocaine, phencyclidine, amphetamines, barbiturates, methadone, methaqualone, propoxyphene, hallucinogens, steroids, performance-enhancing drugs, and prescription and over-the-counter drugs that are likely to be abused.*
- 12) **My child takes medication for ADD/ADHD. Might this trigger a positive result on the test?** *Some prescription medications may trigger a positive result. All parents were asked to provide the District with a list of their child's prescription medications as part of the registration packet before school started. Our school nurse should be notified of any newly prescribed medications throughout the school year. If a student tests positive, parents will be immediately contacted and given an opportunity to provide prescription information before the sample is sent in for retesting.*
- 13) **How "random" is the test?** *Each student participating in the program will be assigned a number. The testing organization will use software to generate random numbers immediately prior to each test administration. Students whose names match the randomly generated numbers will be required to test.*
- 14) **How many students will be tested in each administration, and how many test administrations will the District conduct?** *Anywhere between 2% and 15% of the eligible students will be selected to test in each administration; the District will ask the testing organization to administer tests on as many as ten dates.*
- 15) **What kinds of consequences are districts implementing for students who test positive in random drug-testing programs?** *Some districts simply notify parents after a first positive test, while others temporarily suspend students even on a first offense. In every instance, programs we have reviewed focus on helping the student and his/her family learn from a poor decision. Springtown ISD's program includes the following consequences:*
- a. *First Offense- Seven day suspension from competitions/contests/performances; requires participation in an approved drug counseling program or online intervention course*

*within fourteen calendar days in order to regain eligibility. **The student will be required to re-test on each of the next three test administrations after failing a test.***

- b. Second Offense – thirty day suspension from participation in competitions, contests, and performances, but allowing practice.*
 - c. Third Offense – 180 day suspension from participation in competitions, contests, and performances, but allowing practice.*
 - d. Fourth Offense – 365 day suspension from participation in competitions, contests, and performances, but allowing practice.*
- 16) **Requiring multiple re-tests could result in a student losing eligibility for a very long time. How “cumulative” are the results over time?** Consequences of positive test results will be cumulative for two calendar years, beginning at the latter of:
- a) the student’s enrollment in Springtown Middle School, or*
 - b) the student’s enrollment in Springtown High School, or*
 - c) the student’s last positive test result.*
- 17) **Is there an appeal process after a positive test result?** *A student or parent may appeal a decision made under [FNF\(LOCAL\)](#) and/or [FNF\(REGULATION\)](#) in accordance with [FNG\(LOCAL\)](#). The student will be ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities while the appeal is pending.*