



QUINLAN ISD 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 and high school students who participate in extracurricular activities.

Monitoring the Future, a national survey that tracks drug use among America's youth reported in 2002 that 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. These facts about our youth and dangerous drugs are alarming.

Quinlan 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, Quinlan ISD has implemented a drug-testing program for all students that drive and park a vehicle at school or participate in extracurricular 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 allow them to grow into productive citizens, it will be a valuable tool against dependence or addiction to harmful drugs.

Quinlan ISD 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 extracurricular 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.

PURPOSE OF THE DRUG TESTING PROGRAM

Quinlan ISD has a vital interest in maintaining a positive learning environment that is safe and healthy for all students. To fulfill that purpose and as a proactive measure to keep our schools drug free, the District is adopting a random drug testing policy for:

- students participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities
- students wishing to park their vehicles on school property

By adopting a random drug testing policy, the District desires to:

1. provide for the health and safety of all students
2. undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use illegal drugs
3. deter students from using drugs
4. prevent injury or harm to students that may arise as a result of drug use
5. encourage students who use drugs to participate in drug treatment programs

Substances Tested

The District reserves the right to test for amphetamines, alcohol, barbiturates, cocaine, LSD, marijuana, opiates, phencyclidine, propoxyphene and benzodiazepines.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

This drug testing policy does not in any way modify the disciplinary provisions of the Quinlan ISD Student Code of Conduct or Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. If a student sell, gives, delivers, possesses, uses, or is under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, or alcohol, the student will be subject to the disciplinary provisions of the Student Code of Conduct. A positive drug test is not in and of itself proof that a student has violated the Student Code of Conduct. For more information on the District's disciplinary rules regarding drugs and alcohol, please refer to the Quinlan ISD Student Code of Conduct.

Academically non-punitive

A positive drug test will not affect the student's grade in any curricular class associated with the extracurricular activities. However, if participation in the extracurricular activities is required for the class or affects the student's grade, the student may be required to satisfy participation requirements in alternative ways. The result of the drug tests will not be documented in the student's academic records.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

In addition to the mandatory testing program for students parking on school property or participating in extracurricular activities, the District provides, and encourages participation in, a voluntary testing program for 7th – 12th grade students who are not involved in extracurricular activities or who do not drive to school. The intent of the voluntary program is to send a clear and consistent message to all students about the potential dangers of use and abuse of alcohol and illegal drugs. The goal of the voluntary program is to raise the level of awareness and provide preventative education and intervention in order to promote a healthy and substance-free lifestyle for all students.

The voluntary program operates from the first day of regular attendance through the last day of the school year. Students and parents shall sign consent forms allowing the District to test for illegal drugs. Students are free to withdraw from the voluntary testing program at any time, including on the day of a testing event without any school-related consequences. However, parents shall be notified when a student withdraws from the program.

Testing procedures and conditions for students in the voluntary program shall be the same as for students in the extracurricular testing program, except there shall be no consequences for refusing to be tested.

POSITIVE TEST RESULT (VOLUNTARY PARTICIPANT)

If a student in the voluntary testing program receives a positive test result, a District administrator shall hold a conference with the student and a parent/guardian. During this meeting, a list of available resources will be provided. Any counseling resulting from a positive test shall be a parental decision and not mandated by the District.

POLICY FNF (LOCAL)

The district's drug testing policy is outlined in detail at FNF (LOCAL).