



Kerrville Independent School District

1009 Barnett Street
Kerrville, TX 78028
(830) 257-2200

Memorandum

To: Parents

From: Wade Ivy

Date: May 23, 2018

Re: Proposed Drug Testing Program

Tivy High School teachers, coaches, parents, staff, students, and community members have worked this year to develop a student drug testing program to implement in the 2018-2019 school year at Tivy High School. Many meetings have been held, input has been collected, and changes have been made in response to questions and comments we have received.

Attached to this memo you will find a question and answer document that explains the various components of the proposed plan, and answers the most common questions that have been asked. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at wade.ivy@kerrvilleisd.net, or by phone at 257-2200 ext. 1016 if you would like to discuss the testing program.

Proposed Kerrville ISD Drug Testing Program

What is the purpose of the drug testing program?

1. Help enforce a drug-free educational environment;
2. Deter student use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs and alcohol;
3. Offer students a credible means to resist peer pressure as it relates to the use of illegal drugs or alcohol; and
4. Educate students regarding the harm caused by the use of illegal and performance –enhancing drugs or alcohol.

What drugs will be detected by the test?

Illegal drugs such as, but not limited to, Marijuana, Ecstasy, Amphetamines, Methamphetamines, Cocaine, Opiates, Barbiturates, Heroin, Steroids, Synthetic Drugs, and illegally acquired prescription medications, and alcohol.

If a positive test results from the use of a legally prescribed medication or the appropriate use of over the counter medications, the parent may provide medical documentation to confirm the proper and legal use of the medication.

Who will be tested?

Student participation in the drug testing program is required for students in grades 9 through 12 who wish to:

- participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities including all UIL activities and other school sponsored activities in which a student represents Tivy High School in a competition or performance (*a list of applicable activities will be published each year*); and/or
- obtain a parking permit to park at Tivy High School.

Students who do not consent to testing will be excluded from participation in applicable activities and will not be issued a parking permit.

How will students be selected for drug testing?

The district will contract with a certified drug and alcohol testing laboratory to administer the drug tests. Each year, the list of eligible students will be provided to the testing contractor who will determine a random sample of students to be tested at each testing administration.

How will students be tested?

The drug testing laboratory will collect either urine or oral fluid. When collecting a urine sample, students will experience conditions that are no more intrusive than those 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 student shall produce a sample within a closed restroom stall. A District employee of the same gender as the student shall be present when any samples are collected.

How will a positive test be confirmed?

An initial positive test shall be confirmed by a second test of the specimen before being reported as positive.

Can I request a second test in the event of a positive result?

Students who test positive may request a second test. The parent may select the second laboratory from a list of nationally certified independent laboratories identified by the District.

If a drug test detects drug or alcohol use of my child, will they be arrested?

Drug test results will not be shared with law enforcement. If it is determined that a student is currently under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school, they will face disciplinary action and possible arrest.

What are the consequences for students who test positive for drug or alcohol use?

First Positive Test:

The student shall be suspended from applicable extracurricular activities and/or the student's parking permit shall be suspended for 15 school days. If the student is involved in an activity that practices and/or performs or competes during non-school days, those days will count as suspension days.

During the period of suspension, the student may participate in practices, but not in any competitive activities or performances. The student will be subject to retesting for six months following the date of suspension. The student shall attend a District-approved drug awareness program (including a substance abuse screening inventory) and shall provide evidence of successful completion prior to resuming participation in school-sponsored extracurricular programs. The student's parent will be strongly encouraged to participate in the drug awareness program.

Second Positive Test:

The student shall be suspended from applicable extracurricular activities and/or the student's parking permit shall be suspended for 30 school days. If the student is involved in an activity that practices and/or performs or competes during non-school days, those days will count as suspension days.

During the period of suspension, the student may participate in practices, but not in any competitive activities or performances. The student will be subject to retesting for nine months following the date of suspension. The student shall attend a District-approved drug awareness program and shall provide evidence of successful completion prior to resuming participation in school-sponsored extracurricular programs. The student's parent will be strongly encouraged to participate in the drug awareness program.

Third Positive Test:

The student shall be suspended from applicable extracurricular activities and/or the student's parking permit shall be suspended, for one calendar year.

During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to participate in practices which will result in student removal from the program for the duration of the suspension.

The student shall attend a District-approved drug awareness program and shall provide evidence of successful completion prior to resuming participation in school-sponsored extracurricular programs. The student's parent will be strongly encouraged to participate in the drug awareness program.

The student will be subject to retesting for a full calendar year following the date of suspension which will carry over into the next school year when applicable.

The student must demonstrate that he or she has been drug and alcohol free for one calendar year to have student privileges restored.

How will the district ensure confidentiality of results?

Records of test results shall be confidential and provided only to the student's parent, administrators, and personnel responsible for administering the student's extracurricular activity. Test results will not be entered into the student records computer data base, nor will they be stored in physical student cumulative academic or discipline records.

What will happen if a student refuses to be tested or tampers with a sample?

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 which will result in the denial of participation in extracurricular activities and/or parking privileges as applicable.

Can a parent voluntarily have their child participate in the drug testing program?

Yes. Parents of students not involved in extracurricular activities or wanting a parking permit will be given a way to include their students in the drug testing program.

Questions and answers from the parent meeting on May 8:

Can the school collect information about medications being taken by students at the beginning of the school year?

Yes. Additionally, before a drug test is administered, the student will be asked if they are currently taking any over the counter or prescription medications.

Will parents be notified when their student has been tested, and will they know the results of the test even if the test indicates no use of drugs or alcohol?

Yes. Negative test results will be reported to parent one to two days after testing. Positive test results will be reported to parents within three to four days to allow time to retest the sample before reporting it as positive.

Will student drug testing records be shared with colleges?

No

Can we test for nicotine?

Probably, but we would not want the same consequences as for other drugs. This will require further research.

What will we do about "bladder shy" students?

We will not allow this process to be a traumatic one. Patience will be necessary.

How can we track the effectiveness of the program?

It is difficult to quantify the number of students who don't use drugs or alcohol because of a drug testing program. The school district can assess student attitudes about, knowledge of, and self-reported usage of drugs and alcohol at the onset of the program as a base line, and reassess students through time to determine the impact. Additionally, data will be kept on the number of positive and negative test results, as well as disciplinary placements resulting in students in being in possession or under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school.

Can we let the students know about the testing program they go home for the summer?

Students are becoming aware of the proposed program, but we will make a conscientious effort to keep them informed as the school year comes to an end.

What is our target number of students to be tested?

300 to 400 per year

How much will this program cost?

Between \$10,000 and \$15,000