

## **Drug Testing of Students Participating in Athletics, Extracurricular Activities, and Driving a Vehicle on Campus**

The Walker County Board of Education firmly believes that the use and abuse of drugs that are not prescribed or used as prescribed are detrimental to the physical, emotional and mental well being of its students. The Board further believes that this abuse seriously interferes with the academic and athletic performance of students and creates an unhealthy learning environment. These concerns have prompted the Board to authorize the Superintendent and his/her administrative staff to develop and implement drug screening procedures for all students who wish to participate in any interscholastic athletic activity, any interscholastic extracurricular activity, or any student who applies for a parking permit and intends to park a vehicle on school grounds of Walker County Schools.

### **WALKER COUNTY DRUG SCREENING PROCEDURES**

#### **I. Definitions**

**Chain of Custody** refers to the procedures for maintaining control and accountability from initial collection to final disposition for all such materials or substances and providing for accountability at each stage in handling, testing, and storing specimens and reporting test results.

**Drugs** shall mean any substance screened for under this policy and can include amphetamines, methamphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, marijuana, opiates, & hallucinogens.

**Specimen** means a urine or other sample collected from a student in accordance with the procedures designated by the testing laboratory.

**Participating Student** is any student enrolled in Walker County Schools who participates in or applies for participation in any interscholastic athletic activity, any interscholastic extracurricular activity or any student who applies for a parking permit and intends on parking a vehicle on school grounds.

**Initial Drug Test** refers to a drug screening that is required for all student athletes before they may participate on a particular athletic team.

#### **II. Drug Testing Procedures**

**Testing:** The system shall select a certified drug-testing laboratory to assist with implementing its drug-testing program.

**Chain of Custody:** The system shall utilize strict “chain of custody” procedures as established by the drug-testing laboratory conducting the testing process.

**Consent and Cost:** Each participating student and his or her parents are required to sign a written consent form for drug testing prior to being allowed to participate in any interscholastic athletic activity, any interscholastic extracurricular activity or to apply for a parking permit and intends on parking a vehicle on school grounds of Walker County Schools. The cost of any of the initial drug testing will be paid for by the participant. Any random testing done throughout the course of the school year will be paid for by the school system. Should a student test positive for drug abuse, the cost of the mandatory follow up drug test will be paid by the student.

**Medication:** Participating students who are currently or have been taking prescription or nonprescription medication must disclose that fact at the time of drug testing and upon request, provide verification. Verification could consist of a copy of the prescription with the physician’s written authorization, an original prescription bottle on which the label indicates the physician’s authorization, or a nonprescription bottle containing the label of contents or other information requested by the medical review officer.

**Initial Testing:** Participating students in athletics are required to submit to and pass an initial drug test before

being allowed to participate in any interscholastic athletic activity. The initial drug test will be administered on a day determined by the Athletic Director in coordination with the laboratory conducting the test. The student will be responsible for paying for the initial exam each season of participation. The student may participate during the time between the initial test and the time the results are submitted to the school. Students participating in extracurricular activities, excluding athletics, will be subject to a random test between the first and last days of practice and competitions during the year.

**Random Selection Process:** Drug testing of participating students shall occur at various times throughout the year as determined by Principal, Athletic Director, Drug Testing Coordinator, and the lab conducting the drug test. Individuals will be selected at random using a numerical selection process whereby each participating student's name and identity remain unknown until the random selections are completed. The random selection process will be coordinated by the Drug Testing Coordinator (hereafter referred to as "Coordinator") to be appointed by the Principal if other

**Specimen Collection Procedures:** Procedures for the collection, testing, and result verification of specimens will be developed by the testing facility in conjunction with appropriate school officials as designated by the Superintendent. A copy of the collection procedures will be distributed to all students involved in the testing process.

**Drug Testing Coordinator:** The Coordinator will receive all reports of positive drug test results. The Coordinator shall contact the participating student whose test resulted in a positive drug test report and that participating student's parent(s) to afford them the opportunity to confidentially discuss the test result and any available options for treatment and/or counseling available or known to the high school.

### III. General Prohibitions and Penalties

- A. **Standard of Conduct for Participating Students:** The use or possession of a drug, as defined herein, by a participating student creates an unhealthy learning environment and is both dangerous and detrimental to a student's ability to participate in any interscholastic athletics, any interscholastic extracurricular activity or to operate a vehicle on school grounds of Walker County Schools and is hereby prohibited.
- B. **Penalties:** Any participating student whose drug test administered pursuant to this policy renders a positive test result as indicated by the testing laboratory or who otherwise violates this policy shall be subject to the following consequences:
- C. (Note: All drug test screening results are cumulative for the student's high school career).

**Refusal to Test:** A student's refusal to test will be treated the same as a positive test result and will be counted in the cumulative number of positive test results. No student testing positive or refusing to test will be penalized academically. Testing results will not be released to criminal or juvenile authorities unless required by state or federal laws.

#### Penalty for First Positive Drug Test Result:

- **In Athletics:** The participating student will be suspended from participating in interscholastic athletic competitions for 10 school days. Before returning to interscholastic competition the participant must submit to another drug test paid for by the participant. \* Any positive results at the time of the follow up test will be considered the participant's Second Positive Drug Test Result.
- **Extracurricular Activities Not Including Athletics:** The participant will be suspended from participating in competitions or performances for 10 school days. Before returning to interscholastic competition the participant must submit to another drug test paid for by the participant. \* Any positive results at the time of the follow up test will be considered participant's Second Positive Drug Test Result.

- **Parking on Campus:** The student will not be allowed to drive or park a vehicle on campus for 10 school days. Before being allowed to park on campus the student must submit to another drug test paid for by the student. \* Any positive results at the time of the follow up test will be considered the student's Second Positive Drug Test Result.

**Penalty for Second Positive Drug Test Result:**

- The participating student will be suspended from participating in all interscholastic athletic activities (practices and competitions), any interscholastic extracurricular activity (practices, competitions or performances) or parking a vehicle on school grounds of Walker County Schools for one calendar year. Any student applying for a parking permit who has had a second positive drug screening test may not obtain a parking permit until the one year suspension has been completed.

**Penalty for Third Positive Drug Test Result:**

- The participating student will be permanently suspended from interscholastic athletics, any interscholastic extracurricular activity or from parking his or her vehicle on school grounds of Walker County Schools.

**Code of Conduct:** This procedure is intended to supplement the existing policies of the Walker County School District. All students are governed by the Walker County Schools Code of Conduct and are subject to regular discipline procedures if violations are detected through means other than random drug testing procedures.

\*The student will be required to submit to a drug test on the next random test day, and the results must be determined to meet the requirements of the policy and procedures before the student will be allowed to participate or gain parking privileges.

**Note:** All positive drug tests are cumulative over a student's high school career and are also cumulative toward the suspension of practice, competitions, performances, and parking, regardless of what activity in which the student is involved during the time of the positive result.