

DAWSON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
DRUG SCREENING PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT DRIVERS AND ANY STUDENT WHO
PARTICIPATES IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ATHLETICS AND SCHOOL
CLUBS

The Dawson County School System believes that the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs that have not been prescribed for medical benefit can be detrimental to the physical, emotional, and mental health of their student drivers and any student who participates in extracurricular activities which includes athletics and school clubs (hereafter referred to as extra-curricular participants). It is further believed that this use and abuse of alcohol and drugs seriously interferes with the performance of these extra-curricular participants and is dangerous to them as well as their peers. Because of these serious concerns, the following drug screening procedure is in effect:

GOALS

- To develop an alcohol/drug free program that produces extra-curricular participants who serve as positive role models and influence their peers to lead healthy and responsible lives
- To educate our extra-curricular participants about the dangers and problems associated with alcohol and drug use and abuse
- To prevent alcohol and drug use and abuse by our extra-curricular participants
- To identify any extra-curricular participants who may be using and/or abusing alcohol and/or drugs and to identify the drug(s), as well as to provide help through counseling and treatment
- To educate our extra-curricular participants of the effects alcohol and drugs have on their mental, emotional, and physical well-being and the effect drug abuse has on their teammates, the athletic program, their clubs, the school, and the community.

PROCEDURES

1. The extra-curricular participants must present to the school administration a signed consent form, which authorizes the school to administer drug testing and that allows the results of the test to be released to parents or guardians, administrative officials, and the head coach or sponsor. (Note: A signed consent form will be included in the Athletic Registration for student-athletes, be issued by the sponsor of extra curricular activities and in the Driver's Permit Registration for student drivers. Parents and extra-curricular participants do not have the option of not participating in the drug-screen program to have access to these privileges.)
2. Random testing will take place at any time during the school year with extra-curricular participants chosen through lottery/random selection. The substances that will be tested include (but are not limited to): THC, amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, and opiates. Testing consists of providing a urine sample to those representatives of the firm administering the test. Random selection, on-site collections, and lab analysis will be completed by staff from Northeast Georgia Medical Center Toxicology Lab. School personnel will supervise but not administer the test. Privacy of the extra-curricular participants and confidentiality of the tests results will be protected. Specimens will be processed for identity and secured to ensure against tampering. Test results will be reported to the school through the proper chain of command. In case of a positive result, the parent or guardian will be notified.
3. The student must fill out a form delineating any medication that he or she is taking. (Note: A student's refusal to test will be considered a violation of the Dawson County Board of Education approved drug testing procedures, which will result in the immediate suspension of the privilege pending a follow-up parent conference with school administration.)

CONSEQUENCES FOR POSITIVE RESULTS

First Positive

If a test is returned positive, the parents or guardians and the extra-curricular participant will be notified. If this is a student athlete, the student will be banned for 10% of the team's scheduled games for the season (excluding practice scrimmages) beginning with the next scheduled contest(s). The student athlete may remain a part of the team and will be expected to participate in team practices or conditioning sessions. If this is an extra-curricular activity, the student will be banned from 10% of that group's activities. If this is a student driver, the student will lose 10% of driving privileges for the year (18 school days). If this is a student who is also involved in other extracurricular activities and holds a driving/parking permit, consequences will be applied to all activities. In every case of a confirmed first positive, extra-curricular participants and parents must provide evidence of enrollment in a drug-counseling program approved by the District. The extra-curricular participant must agree to another drug test within a timeframe recommended by the Northeast Georgia Toxicology Lab at the family's expense (cost will be approximately \$25).

Second Positive

If an extra-curricular participant has a second positive screen, the parents or guardian and the student will be notified. The extra-curricular participant will be suspended from the activity—team participation and/or driving to school—at the time of notification. A meeting will be scheduled with the parents or guardians, the student, the principal, and any other relevant school staff to arrange the following:

- Agree for participation in a drug treatment and counseling program on a regular basis, for a minimum of four weeks. Parents or guardians are expected to participate in the program.
- Apply for reinstatement to the team/group after a minimum of four (4) weeks, or reinstatement of driving privileges after 45 days if a student driver if the following provisions are met: (a) provide a negative drug screen to school administration; (b) agree to continue with drug counseling; (c) agree to be subjected to future testing on demand; and (d) understand that the application for reinstatement may be denied. The school administration will make the final decision on reinstatement.

Third Positive

A third positive screen will result in suspension from all interscholastic athletics, extra curricular activities and driving privileges for one calendar year from date of result. Parents or guardians and student will be notified immediately. Continued counseling and treatment during the year of suspension is expected with periodic testing at family's expense. Reinstatement procedures will remain constant, meaning they will have to go through the re-instatement process outlined in the Second Positive.

In the event the student believes this policy has not been applied to him/her in a manner consistent with the intent, the parents or guardians may appeal the decision to the principal of their school within 72 hours of a positive test result notification, and the principal's decision in this matter shall be final. This procedure is intended to supplement the existing policies of the Dawson County Board of Education and the Georgia High School Association regarding the governance of interscholastic athletics, student drivers, and school clubs. Administrators shall not use test results obtained pursuant to this policy for disciplinary or other purposes, other than as set forth above. All extra-curricular participants remain subject to the Dawson County Board of Education Student Code of Conduct and may be subject to established disciplinary procedures if found in possession or under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol at school or at school sponsored events.

In addition, parents (guardians) may make a request to have their extra-curricular participants tested at their expense.