

THRALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

THRALL HIGH SCHOOL

www.thrallisd.com

(512) 898-5193 ~ Fax (512) 898-2132 ~ 201 S. Bounds ~ Thrall, Texas 76578

ADMINISTRATION 512-898-0062 – FAX 512-898-5349

Aug 1, 2019

Good evening,

Thrall ISD has implemented a student drug testing policy that will go into effect during the 2019-2020 school year. The policy requires high school students who participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities, or park on campus to consent to random drug tests. The policy allows for grades 7-12, however, this program will be piloted at the high school level during the Fall semester with the option to expand to the middle school.

Students who are not required to be part of the testing can be included at the request of a parent or guardian at the cost of the family.

According to the policy, the random tests will be conducted on as many as nine dates during the school year. A selected student who is absent will automatically be placed in the group selected on the next date.

The district does not feel that there is a rising epidemic, this is simply a way to enforce a positive culture amongst the student body. This will give our students yet one more reason not to use drugs, because they have way too much at stake to give into peer pressure.

Mr. Dube and Coach Cole will be available for questions the evening of registration (Aug 7 & 8). Feel free to reach out to either one before or after if you still have questions.

Below are a list of frequently asked questions and answers:

Who will be tested?

High school students who participate in extracurricular activities or who park on campus.

Each student has an equal likelihood of being selected for the random student drug testing, regardless of how many activities they participate in.

What will be tested?

The test may be for synthetic cannabinoids such as K2, alcohol and marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, opiates, phencyclidine, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, methadone, propoxyphene.

When will the testing take place?

Testing will occur each month at Thrall High School. A student who tests positive for one of the substances will automatically be tested on the next three testing dates.

Will testing dates be announced in advance?

No.

Who will oversee the test and how will it be conducted?

A certified drug-testing laboratory will conduct the test, using urine samples. Hair and saliva samples may also be used depending on the testing lab in use each year.

Students will be selected through a computer-generated randomized process.

When providing samples, students will have the same level of privacy as when using a multi-stall restroom.

When tested, each sample will be separated into two and tested twice before the results are provided to the school. Any student who refuses to provide a sample or who is found to have tampered with a sample will be considered as testing positive.

Why did the district implement the testing policy?

The new policy is for prevention, not punishment. The primary reason for the random student drug testing is to promote student health and safety. District officials hope it can act as a deterrent against drug and alcohol use and also offer students a way to

combat peer pressure. It will also serve as an informational tool for parents, who will be notified of a positive result.

What if a student is absent on the day they are selected to test?

A student who is absent (unless they are on a school related trip or have an excused absence) on the day they are selected for the random test will be automatically included on the list for the next test date.

What will the results of the test be used for?

The test results will be confidential under HIPAA regulations and only will be shared securely with the campus drug-testing administrator, who coordinates the testing. The results will not be kept as part of the student's educational record. A confirmed positive test will only be shared with the student's parent or guardian and the necessary extracurricular activity sponsor or coach.

What happens if a student receives a positive test?

After receiving a verified positive result, campus administrators will contact the parent or guardian and the necessary activity sponsors or coach. When speaking with the parent or guardian, administrators also will provide information about drug and alcohol abuse prevention resources available in the area.

What if a student has a medical reason, such as prescription medication, that may have prompted a false positive result?

When a parent is contacted about a positive result, they will have the chance to provide proof of medication that may have resulted in the positive test. The student will not receive any consequences during the medical review process. If the medical review officer finds the student's medication was properly prescribed and taken, leading to a false positive result, the test will be reported as negative.

What are the consequences of a positive result?

First offense: The student will be suspended from their activity and/or from parking on campus for 15 calendar days. If in an extracurricular activity, the student will be allowed to continue practicing but will not be allowed to travel or participate in competition.

Second offense: The student is suspended from their activity and/or from parking on campus for 45 calendar days. If in an extracurricular activity, the student will be

allowed to continue practicing but will not be allowed to travel or participate in competition.

Third offense: The student is suspended from their activity and/or parking on campus for one calendar year. If in an extracurricular activity, the student will not be allowed to practice, travel or participate in competition.

Students who participate voluntarily will not receive any consequences but the information will be provided to the student's parents.

If a student is determined to be under the influence or in possession of drugs or alcohol while on campus or at a school activity, the student will receive disciplinary action as stated in the student code of conduct.

Will students be allowed to appeal a positive test?

Yes.

Do positive test results carry forward from one year to the next?

No. The number of offenses by a student resets at the start of the school year. A one-year suspension for a third offense will be carried over to the following school year if required.