



Mars Area School District

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
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Purpose

This policy is an extension of the Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia Policy of the Mars Area School District. The purpose of this policy is to create an alcohol and drug-free setting for all students and District employees. It is the belief of the Mars Area School District that participation on any interscholastic athletic team, extracurricular activity or driving/parking a personal vehicle is a privilege, not a right. Students who volunteer to participate in these programs are expected to accept the responsibilities granted to them by this privilege. These students, as well as their parents/guardians, must also recognize that because of their choice to participate in these activities, they have a lesser expectation of privacy than do other students.

The effects of drug usage, in particular, in an educational environment are visited not just upon the users, but also upon the entire student body and faculty, because the educational process may be disrupted and the individual's safety risk factor is increased. With regard to school athletes and students who drive, the risk of immediate physical harm to the drug or alcohol user or those with whom the student is playing a sport or sharing the highway is particularly high.

As this is a non-curricular occurrence, no recording of participation or of any test results, either positive or negative, will appear on the student's permanent transcript or any other permanent record.

In addition, students participating in the program for the full year, and who have no true positive results from the testing throughout the year will receive a certification at the end of the year.

Authority

The Mars Area School District prohibits the possession, use, misuse, or the distribution of drugs, controlled or mood-altering substances, including anabolic steroids, look-alikes, designer drugs, drug paraphernalia, health endangering substances, medication not registered with the health office, or alcohol on School District property, school buses, or during activities under School District jurisdiction. This policy encompasses all students in Grades 7-12 wishing to participate in any interscholastic athletic activity, any extracurricular activity, or those who meet the District's guidelines to drive on campus and wish to obtain a parking permit. The policy includes those students being educated by the District under special circumstances, including home schooling. The District welcomes all referenced students, with the permission of their parents/guardians, to participate in the program. Those students who are not seeking privileges for parking, participating on athletic teams or an extracurricular activity will be considered voluntary participants.

The District will require any student who is submitting to testing and the student's custodial parent/guardian to consent in writing to drug testing pursuant to the District's drug testing program using the form provided by the District. No student should be able to participate in any interscholastic sport, any extracurricular activity, or to obtain a parking permit without such consent.

Definitions

Student Athlete/Cheerleader - Any student in Grades 7-12 participating in athletic or cheerleading practices, contests, or performances under the control and jurisdiction of the District, including managers, student trainers, etc.

Student Driver - Any student with a valid license recognized by the state of Pennsylvania and who has formally requested a parking permit via the District-approved process.

School Property - This policy covers all locations under the jurisdiction of the Mars Area School District, including away events in or out of the state of Pennsylvania.

Drug/Mood-Altering Substance - As used in this policy, shall be defined as any controlled substance, non-controlled substance, or designer drug, look-alike substance or health endangering substance.

Controlled Substance - A controlled substance is any drug or substance listed in Schedules 1-5 of the Pennsylvania Drug Device and Cosmetic Act of 1972.

Examples include but are not limited to alcohol, marijuana, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, etc.

Non-controlled Substance - A non-controlled substance is any substance containing phenylpropanolamine, pseudoephedrine, ephedrine, or any other non-controlled substance that has or is represented to have a stimulant or depressant effect on humans. In addition to the items stated above, any product that includes chemical solvents or aerosol carcinogens is also considered a non-controlled substance.

Designer Drug - A controlled substance analog is a non-controlled substance which either produces the pharmacological effect or is represented to produce pharmacological effects similar to a controlled substance in Schedule 1 or 2 of the Pennsylvania Drug Device and Cosmetic Act of 1972.

Look-Alike Substance - A non-controlled substance whose physical appearance of the finished dosage form containing the non-controlled substance is substantially identical to any controlled substance, taking into account size, shape, color, markings or lack thereof.

Health Endangering Substance - Any substance that may be harmful to the individual and that is not covered in the Pennsylvania Drug Device and Cosmetic Act of 1972.

Medical Review Officer (MRO) - A licensed physician trained and certified in the process and interpretation of drug testing results.

SAMHSA (The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) - A governmental agency that certifies toxicology laboratories that perform drug testing following strict guidelines and constant quality assurance programs.

GC/MS (Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry) - A scientific process to identify specific chemical compounds. A molecular fingerprint is obtained that identifies a chemical compound with 100% accuracy.

Quantitative Levels - The measurement levels of a specific chemical in the urine reported usually in nanograms per milliliter (ng/ml).

Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) - A scientific process to identify special chemical compounds. A molecular fingerprint is obtained that identifies a chemical compound with 100% accuracy.

Chain-of-Custody Form - A preprinted form provided by the testing laboratory that records all contact with the provided specimen. The form is initiated by the collector, and the donor then follows with the specimen until the results are certified by the testing scientist and forwarded to the MRO for final certification.

Drug Paraphernalia - All equipment, products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing to the human body a controlled substance.

Sports Season - The length of each season shall be determined by the guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (P.I.A.A.).

Citizenship Standard - Any student who was proven by self-admission or admission by the parent/guardian to violate the policy throughout the calendar year while off campus will be subject to suspension from all school-sponsored athletic activities according to the offenses outlined in the Procedure For Drug Testing Participants of this policy.

Suspension from Sport/Activity, Extracurricular Activity, or Driving

Privileges - Based upon a positive result from a drug test or a violation of the current Mars Area Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia Policy, the student may observe but not be able to participate in the sport/activity. Observation is defined as having the individual dressed in street clothes and only watching practice. This would include practices, rehearsals, weight training, and all events pertaining to the sport/activity. The recommended treatment will supercede the sport/activity schedule. The suspension of activities or driving privileges, upon verification of a positive result, is immediate.

Adulterant/Adulteration - Any attempt to alter the outcome of a urine drug test by adding a substance to the sample, attempting to switch a sample, or otherwise interfere with the detection of illicit or banned substances in the urine.

Vendor - The medical office or company selected by the School Board to carry out the policy and procedure.

Extracurricular Activity Participant - Any student in Grades 7-12 participating in any non-graded, extracurricular activity.

Guidelines

Procedure for Drug Testing Participants

Informed Consent for Testing

Prior to the beginning of the new school year and/or at the beginning of each sport season, student drivers, student athletes and parents/guardians/custodians will complete and sign the Consent To Perform

Urinalysis For Drug Testing form, regardless of the student's age. Students will complete one (1) consent form per school year. No student may purchase a parking permit or participate in practice or competition until these forms are properly executed and on file with the appropriate Building Principal.

Urine Drug Testing Frequency

At the beginning of the school year and/or of each sport season, or when a student moves into the District and joins a sport, students wishing to purchase a parking permit or wishing to participate in that season's sports or participate in any extracurricular activity will be subject to urine testing for illicit or banned substances as specified below.

Any student wishing to participate in a sport or activity with a tryout period of less than five (5) days is exempt from taking a drug test until they have been selected for the team or activity.

Eligible student athletes, activities participants, or student drivers will be randomly tested on a periodic basis. All students will remain in the random pool until the end of the school year. A student who is finished with the activity and does not intend to continue participation for the remainder of the year may be removed from the program with a signed letter by the parent/guardian directed to the Building Principal. Any student who refuses to submit to urine drug testing will not be allowed to practice or participate in his/her activity or athletic event and will be refused driving privileges until the student agrees to do so. The District will incur the cost of the random tests.

Samples will be collected as outlined under vendor requirements. Any eligible student athlete, activity participant, or student driver selected randomly for urine drug testing who is not in school will be tested at the next available testing time. Students who are present and not able or are unwilling to provide an adequate urine specimen at testing time will be withheld from practice or competition and their driving privileges will be withheld until the student provides the required specimen.

Arrangements may be made for special collections at a vendor collection site with prior approval of the Building Principal or Athletic Director. There may be an additional fee, paid by the family, associated with the use of an off-site collection point.

The vendor will oversee the collection of urine specimens as outlined in the Procedures For Random Urine Drug Testing Of Mars Area School District Students Participating In Interscholastic Sports. Chain-of-Custody forms will be provided by the vendor that meet the criteria of this policy and that of the

testing laboratory. Students will be given as much privacy as possible in the obtaining of the specimen.

Random Selection of Students

Once provided a list of eligible student athletes, activity participants, and student drivers, the vendor must select the required number of students in a random and confidential manner. Periodically, the vendor will arrange with the Building Principal or Athletic Director a day and time to do the collection of specimens. The schedule will not follow any recognizable pattern. Saturdays and Sundays will also be utilized to collect samples. The selected student names will be given to the Building Principal or the Athletic Director, who will arrange for these students to report to the collection area. Parents/Guardians will not be notified of the random drug test prior to the test. The student will take home the parent/guardian copy of the Chain-of-Custody form to verify testing occurred.

Collection of Urine Specimens

The vendor will oversee the collection of urine specimens as outlined in the Procedures For Random Urine Drug Testing Of Mars Area School District Students Participating In Interscholastic Sports. Chain-of-Custody forms will be provided by the vendor that meet the criteria of this policy and that of the testing laboratory. Students will be given as much privacy as possible in the obtaining of the specimen.

Testing of Urine Specimens

The vendor will have all specimens tested for the specified illicit or banned substances by a qualified laboratory certified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The testing laboratory should have experience in toxicology testing and chain-of-custody procedures. All specimens must be initially tested using a highly accurate immunoassay technique, with all presumptive positive results then confirmed by a Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) or the Liquid Gas Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MC) confirmatory test. Screening and confirmation thresholds will be set on recommendation of the Medical Review Officer.

The testing laboratory must be able to test for the following: drug classes, substances or their metabolites in collected urine specimens. The Building Principal may specify specific classes or substances to be tested.

The District reserves the right to screen for the following substances: alcohol, amphetamines, barbiturates, Benzodiazepines (Valium), Cocaine, Marijuana,

Methadone, opiates (Codeine), Phencyclidine, Propoxyphene (Darvon), and Synthetic Cannibinoids.

This list can be modified by the District at any time to include anabolic steroids, LSD, and Ecstasy.

Medical Review Officer (MRO) Services

The vendor will provide MRO services by a licensed physician who is certified by the Medical Review Officer Certification Council (MROCC) or the American Association of Medical Review Officers as having proven by examination to have had the appropriate medical training to interpret and evaluate drug test results and thus qualified for certification as a Medical Review Officer. Additionally the MRO must demonstrate a willingness to abide by the Procedure For Random Urine Drug Testing Of Mars Area School District Students Participating In Interscholastic Sports as the evaluation of positive drug tests and reporting findings to the Building Principal in a timely and confidential manner. All results will be kept on file for a period of seven (7) years and the vendor must notify the District prior to disposal and of disposal methods in accordance with destruction of confidential information.

Reporting of Random Urine Test Results by Vendor

The MRO will certify all urine drug screens and report by telephone positive findings in a confidential manner to the parent/guardian. The next contact regarding a positive result will be to the Building Principal. The MRO will also notify the Athletic/Activities Director, by phone, that a drug test returned positive giving only the dates of the collection and reporting. This contact will take place at the earliest convenience of the MRO after determining a positive result.

Statistical Reporting and Confidentiality of Urine Drug Test Results

The vendor, testing laboratory, or MRO may not release any statistics on the rate of positive drug tests to any person, organization, news publication or media without expressed written consent of the Mars Area School District Board of Education. However, the vendor will provide the Superintendent with semiannual reports showing the number of tests performed, rate of positive and negative tests, and what substances were found in the positive urine specimens.

Procedures in the Event of a Positive Result

Whenever a participant in the testing program has a test result that indicates the presence of illegal drugs, positive test, or banned substances, or the MRO rules the specimen adulterated, the following will occur:

1. The Building Principal will notify and meet with the parent/guardian/custodian first at his/her earliest possible convenience, then the student and Athletic/Activities Director of any positive results. A written notification from the Building Principal, by form letter, will be sent to the parent/guardian/custodian. The Building Principal may keep all test results for a period up to one (1) year.
2. The student will be notified and be required to submit urine specimens, via the vendor, for four (4) consecutive sample dates. The costs of these four (4) tests will be incurred by the parent/guardian.
3. If the parent/guardian/custodian or student wish to contest the results, the vendor will arrange for the split portion of the specimen to be submitted to another SAMHSA certified laboratory for testing. This is done at parent/guardian/custodian or student expense. Such a request must be made to the Building Principal in writing within five (5) working days from first notification of positive test results.
4. The MRO may use quantitative results to determine if positive results on repeat testing indicate recent use of illicit or banned substances or the natural decline of levels of the illicit or banned substance from the body. If the MRO feels the quantitative levels determined to be above the established cutoffs do not reflect current use but natural decay, then negative results may be reported.

All drug test results are considered confidential information and will be handled according to state regulations.

Consequences for Violating the Drug/Alcohol Policy or Testing Positive During a Drug Screening

No student participating in this testing program shall be penalized academically for testing positive for illegal drugs. The results of drug tests pursuant to this policy will not be documented in any student's academic records. Information regarding the results of drug tests will not be disclosed to criminal or juvenile authorities, absent legal compulsion by valid and binding subpoena or other legal process, which the District shall not solicit; in the event of service of any such subpoena or legal process, the student and the custodial parent/guardian will be notified at least seventy-two (72) hours before a response is made by the District.

The records of all students who tested negative will be destroyed at the end of the school year. Only the records of those students who tested positive

and whose penalties transcend the school year into subsequent school years shall have their records maintained.

If a student refuses to submit a urine sample, the situation will be ruled as a positive result and the student will receive the same consequences as if s/he had tested positive.

If a student participates in athletics and/or activities, and is a driver, both privileges will be revoked in accordance with the progressive consequences process if a true positive test is returned.

First Offense - The student participant will receive a fourteen (14) calendar day suspension from any sport or activity in which he/she is participating or of his/her parking privilege at the time of the positive test. The student will be referred to a licensed facility for drug assessment. The student will be required to follow the recommendation of the licensed drug assessment facility or he/she will attend four (4) mandatory drug and alcohol education school sessions offered one (1) time per month. Should the student not attend the next regularly scheduled school session or complete the recommendation of the licensed drug assessment facility, the student's suspension from the sport, activity, or parking will not be reinstated until such time as the student completes the program. Participation is contingent upon the student following through and complying with the facility's recommendation. The student will also be required to submit urine specimens, via the vendor, for four (4) consecutive sample dates. The expenses of the assessment and the four (4) drug tests will be incurred by the parent/guardian. The student will also be referred to the SAP Team of the appropriate building and receive an appropriate educational program.

The first offense for testing positive can be expunged by the District once the student provides documentation of forty (40) hours of drug counseling and successful voluntary passing of twelve (12) monthly drug tests by the District's approved vendor, at the family's expense. Community service may be used once approved by the principal to achieve the 40-hour total. This first offense can only be expunged once in the student's time in the Mars Area School District. This documentation must be provided before the occurrence of a second offense. Failure of any one (1) of the twelve (12) monthly drug tests will not count as a second offense, but nullifies the first offense removal procedure.

Second Offense Within A Six-Year Time Period - The student participant will receive a suspension of athletic, activity, and driving privileges for one (1) year. The student will also be referred to a licensed facility for a drug assessment. Participation is contingent upon the student following through and complying with the facility's

recommendation. The student will also be required to submit urine specimens, via the vendor, for four (4) consecutive sample dates. The expenses of the assessment and the five (5) weekly four (4) drug tests will be incurred by the parent/guardian. The student will also be referred to the SAP Team of the appropriate building and receive an appropriate educational program.

Third Offense Within A Six-Year Time Period - The student participant will receive a permanent suspension of driving privileges as well as a permanent suspension from any sport or activity. The student will also be referred to a licensed facility for a drug assessment. The student will also be referred to the SAP Team of the appropriate building.

Prescription Drug Error Positive

A student that is determined to have used a prescription drug without a legal prescription in their name will be given a positive test result by the MRO. If, upon contacting the parent/guardian, the MRO is advised of circumstances indicating that the positive result was due to parental/guardian error and not an intended abuse of the substance, the MRO shall instruct the parent/guardian to submit to the MRO and the Building Principal a written statement detailing the circumstances of the administration of the non-prescribed drug. The Building Principal, in consultation with the Superintendent, will consider whether the parent/guardian explanation for the violation warrants excusal of the violation of this policy. The disposition of the written statement by the school administration shall be final.

Submission of such a written statement shall not delay or interrupt the suspension from the sport, activity or parking privilege pending administrative review. Such suspension shall be terminated only if and when the school administration determines that the violation is excusable and the conditions set forth below are fulfilled. If the school administration determines that the violation is excusable, as conditions of reinstatement of the student's sport/activity participation and/or driving privileges: 1) the parent/guardian shall submit a written acknowledgement recognizing that the administration of a prescription drug to the student without a legal prescription in their name is inappropriate and that further such non-prescribed administrations will not be considered for excusal under this provision; and 2) the student shall undergo a second drug screen, at the expense of the parent/guardian, to ensure that the detected substance is in decay. Upon completion of these conditions, the student's participation and/or privileges shall be reinstated and the positive test will be removed from the student's record. This provision for excusal may be applied only once during a student's enrollment within the School District and subsequent positive test results shall be subject to the consequences otherwise set forth in this policy.

Interference With Testing

The possession of containers of urine or other substances, the provision of urine or other substances or the commission of other acts undertaken for the purpose of falsifying, disrupting or otherwise interfering with drug and alcohol testing administered pursuant to this policy may result in suspension from participation in athletic or extracurricular activities and the revocation of driving privileges. Additionally, such conduct constitutes a Level III violation of the Student Discipline Policy that may result in suspension or expulsion from school.

Prohibition of Over-the-Counter Sports-Enhancing Supplements

There exists several over-the-counter products known as sports-enhancing supplements. The purpose of those supplements is to assist an athlete, enhance his/her overall physical development, and some are designed to enhance a specific athletic event.

The Mars Area School District wants to be clear in conveying the thought that the use of supplement(s) or product(s) designed to enhance performance is not endorsed or condoned. It is our hope that parents/guardians will support our view that the use of such supplements should be prohibited.

As a means of conveying our opinions on the topic, our coaches, trainers and health teachers shall, through our curriculum and annual team orientations, address this issue with our students. The message we want to convey to our students is that preparation for athletic performance is best served through a proper and well-balanced nutritional diet and appropriate physical activity designed by our coaches, trainers, and weight room supervisors.

The Testing Negative, Positive Result Plan

As previously mentioned, students participating in the program for the full year and who have not tested positive on any tests throughout the year will receive a certification at the end of that year.

In addition, the District will notify local businesses via chambers of commerce, rotary and other groups of the program.

227.1 Attachment 1 Drug Testing Consent Form



Mars Area School District
Drug Testing Consent Form



INFORMED CONSENT AGREEMENT

Student's Name: _____ Student's ID#: _____ Grade: _____
(please print)

Sport/Activity: _____ Student Driver: _____
(please print) (please print)

AS A STUDENT:

- I understand and agree that participation in athletics, activities, or in student driving is a privilege that may be withdrawn for violations of this policy.
- I understand and realize that there is risk of injury in participating in athletic activities.
- I understand that when I participate in any athletic program, activity, or in student driving, I will be subjected to initial and random urine drug testing, and if I refuse I will not be allowed to practice or participate in any athletic program, activity, or in student driving.
- I understand this agreement is binding while I'm a student athlete, participant in school activity, or a student driver at Mars Area School District.

Student Signature

Date

AS A PARENT/GUARDIAN/CUSTODIAN:

- I understand that my son/daughter/ward, when participating in any athletic program, activity, or student driving will be subjected to random urine drug testing, and if they refuse will not be allowed to practice or participate in any athletic activities, extracurricular activities, or continue driving and parking on school grounds.
- I understand that upon completion of my son/daughter/ward's activity, I have the option to remove them from the random pool with a signed letter to the building principal, assuming that they do not intend on participating for the rest of the year.
- I understand this agreement is binding while my son/daughter/ward is a student athlete, participant in school activity, or a student driver at Mars Area School District.

Parent/Guardian/Custodian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian/Custodian Printed Name

Home/Cell#

Work#

For office use only:

Date _____ Check # _____ or Cash _____ Initials _____