

Whitfield County Schools Extracurricular Participant Random Drug Screening Procedures

Rationale: The Whitfield County Board of Education firmly believes that the use and abuse of drugs that are not prescribed or are not used as prescribed for medical reasons are detrimental to the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of its students. It is further believed that this abuse seriously interferes with the performance of our students, is dangerous to the student and creates an unhealthy learning environment.

Intent: This procedure is intended to supplement existing policies of the Whitfield County Schools and to aid in maintaining a safe learning environment by providing students engaged in extracurricular activities with period random drug screening. All students are governed by the Whitfield County Schools' Code of Conduct and are subject to discipline procedures if found to possess or be under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol at school, on school property or at school sponsored events.

Goals:

- To maintain a drug free extracurricular program comprised of students who serve as positive role models and who positively influence their peers by leading healthy and responsible lives.
- To encourage any student with a dependence on or addiction to drugs to seek help in overcoming the problem.
- To prevent drug abuse by students.
- To identify the drugs being abused and to facilitate the provision of help through counseling or treatment programs for students found to be abusing drugs.

Procedures:

(1). Each student participating in school sponsored extracurricular activities is required to present to the school's designated administrator a signed compliance form (See Appendix A) acknowledging agreement to participate in the random drug screening program on the part of the student and the student's parent/guardian.

(2). Students must inform their coach or sponsor in writing when they are legitimately taking medication that could negatively effect the drug screening process.

(3). Random testing may take place at any time in which the extracurricular activity is meeting. Testing will consist of the student providing a urine or saliva sample to the third party administrator (TPA) firm administering the random drug screening. School personnel will supervise but not conduct the tests. The TPA firm has ensured confidentiality of the screening results. A lottery type process will ensure anonymity of selected students prior to screening.

(4). Results of drug testing will be reported to the school's designated administrator. Positive results will be reviewed and verified by the TPA's Medical Review Officer. The school's designated administrator will inform parents/guardians and students if results are positive.

(5). No student testing positive or refusing to test will be penalized academically. Testing results will not be released to criminal or juvenile authorities unless under compulsion by state or federal laws.

(6). Drugs screened for under this policy may include but are not limited to; alcohol, amphetamines, anabolic steroids, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, phencyclidine, and propophene.

(7) Urine or saliva samples which are intentionally adulterated, substituted, or otherwise tampered with by the student being tested will be treated as positive test results.

(8) Students who refuse testing will be considered to have a positive test result and will be subject to the following procedures.

Positive Results:

First Positive

After notification of the results the student will be immediately suspended from all extracurricular activities. A meeting will be scheduled that will consist of school administration, the designated administrator, head coach or activity sponsor, parent/guardian, and the student to arrange the following;

- An agreement to participate in a drug treatment/counseling program approved by the Whitfield County Public Schools. Parents/Guardians are expected to attend the program and will be responsible for the cost of the program. Reinstatement to extracurricular activities can not take place prior to completion of this program.

A contract signed by the student, parent/guardian, and school administration that must at a minimum include the following;

- An agreement to serve a minimum 4-week suspension from all extracurricular programs during which the student must complete a drug treatment / counseling program approved by Whitfield County Schools and 10 hours of individual counseling with a school counselor.
- An agreement that treatment/counseling must be completed prior to reinstatement.
- An agreement to willingly participate in regular drug screening beyond the scope of the random screening program.
- An agreement/understanding that negative drug screenings must be reported prior to reinstatement.

Second Positive

The second positive test will result in suspension from all extracurricular activities for a minimum of one calendar year from the date of the second positive test. Parents/Guardians and the student will be notified immediately. Following the one year suspension, regular drug screening is required for reinstatement. Treatment/Counseling, at parent expense, will be a parental responsibility.

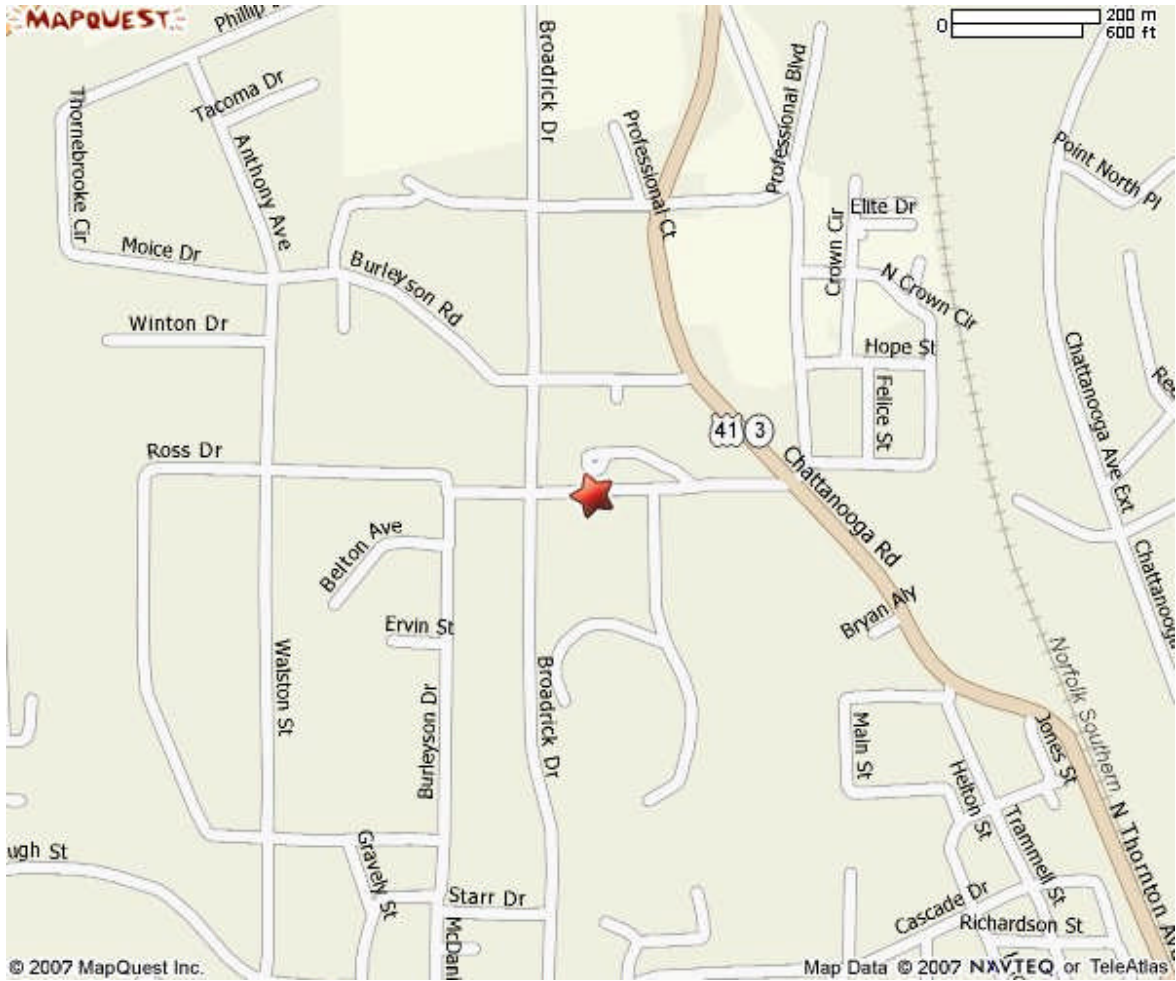
In the event parent/guardian or the student believes this procedure has not been applied in a manner consistent with the intent of this process, an appeal may be made to the principal of the student's high school.

Inability to Provide Required Urine Sample (Shy Bladder):

Students who are unable to provide a urine sample on site have **24 hours** from the time of the initial screening attempt to report to Laboratory Services at Hamilton Medical Center to submit a urine sample. Failure to provide an acceptable sample within 24 hours will be treated as a **refusal** and will result in sanctions up to and including suspension from extracurricular activities.

You will need your student test number given to you at the school testing site. There is no charge to you or your family. Hamilton Medical Center is located at 1200 Memorial Drive in Dalton. A map to is included below.

If there are questions, please call Whitfield County Schools Director of Safety and Security, Mike Ewton at (706) 876-3956 or the Hamilton Medical Center Laboratory Services at (706) 272-6070.



Hamilton Medical Center
1200 Memorial Drive
Dalton, GA 30720

Criteria for Drug Screening Vendor Selection by Whitfield County Schools

1. Vendor must have a Medical Review Officer.
 - a. Medical Officer Certification Council or the American Association of Medical Review Officers must certify MRO.
 - b. MRO will make the final certification of positive or negative results.
 - c. MRO will verify if any prescribed medication could have produced a positive test result.
 - d. The MRO will be available for consultation in relation to the Whitfield County Schools' Drug Screening Program.
2. The laboratory employed by the vendor must be experienced in drug screening (10 years experience preferred). Lab must be certified to do Department of Transportation drug screening.
3. The vendor must be able to provide on site service in procuring drug-screening specimens.

4. The lab employed by the vendor must test every specimen for possible adulteration.
5. The vendor must provide the names of drugs that will be screened as a package and the total cost of screening that package. The names of additional drugs that may be requested for screening by the school system should be included with the vendor's bid along with the total screening cost of each drug. The bid received will be the total cost. No additional charges such as; set up fees, account maintenance fees, or adulteration fees will be accepted.
6. The vendor must ensure confidentiality of all drug-screening results.

**Whitfield County Schools
Drug Screening Compliance Form**

In an effort to protect our students and maintain the integrity of our extracurricular programs the Whitfield County Schools has adopted a policy requiring participation in a drug screening process for all students participating in extracurricular activities. All participating students must complete this form and return it with required signatures before the student will be permitted to participate within the Whitfield County Schools' high school extracurricular program.

I have read the drug screening procedures and understand that as a participant in an extracurricular activity within the Whitfield County Schools I am subject to all provisions of the Whitfield County Schools' drug screening process. I agree to participate in the process and to the release of all drug-screening results to my parents/guardians and to school district administrative officials.

Signature of student

Date

I am the parent/guardian of _____. I understand that in order for my child to participate in any extracurricular program within the Whitfield County Schools that he/she will be subject to the drug screening process adopted by the Whitfield County Board of Education. I have read and understand the process. I agree for my student to participate in the random drug screening and for the results to be released to school district administrative officials.

Signature of parent/guardian

Date