Stepping Up to the Plate Through Random Student Drug Testing

Alvin Independent School District

Presented by:
Dr. Greg Smith, Superintendent, Alvin ISD
Mr. JB Hensler, President, Alvin ISD Board
Mr. Kevon Wells, Principal, Alvin High School
Dr. Harvey Graves, President/CEO Pinnacle Medical Management

Welcome and Introductions

Establishing the Need

- Board Driven
- District Goals: Provide Safe Schools, possess a self-disciplined and responsible student body, achieve at the highest state and national standards with all students

What does the data suggest?

- Texas School Survey of Alcohol and Drug Use 2002 and 2003.
- Survey Results
- 45% of the extracurricular activity respondents reported having been drunk and 37% reported trying marijuana
- 20% of the student respondents were reportedly highly involved in drugs and alcohol (drink or use drugs every weekend)

What does the data suggest?

- Students listed alcohol as the drug perceived to be most “fairly easy” or “very easy” to get followed by cigarettes, marijuana, and inhalants. Students listed weekend parties as the primary location (60%) for use, 57% at a friend’s house and 34% of the respondents were getting alcohol at home with the parent’s knowledge.
- 30% of the students are using alcohol and marijuana together.

District Recommendations

- Increase emphasis on early intervention programs before high school.
- Develop a means to identify students who are drug users.
- Coordinate a district-wide approach to substance abuse counseling
- Develop a community task force to coordinate drug abuse prevention efforts

Momentum

- U.S. Drug Czar, John Walters, emphasized drug testing to stop widespread use among teenagers in a Houston visit in 2004
- 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse revealed that 4.5 million people age 12 and older need drug treatment. 23% are teenagers. Research indicates that people who make it through their teenage years without using drugs are much less likely to start using them when they are older.
- In June 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court broadened the authority to test students for illegal drugs.

The Role of the School Board in Providing Safe Schools and Policy Development

- AISD Board-“We have reason to believe that some students who participate in extracurricular activities have been observed and are suspected of using alcohol and illegal drugs. We should consider a program of deterrence as a pro-active approach to a truly drug free school district.”

The Role of the School Board in Providing Safe Schools and Policy Development

- “Drug testing is only one approach we should investigate in order to accomplish our district goals in providing safe schools and having students who are self-disciplined and responsible. In order for our students to achieve at the highest state and national standards, it only makes sense that our students remain drug free based on what we know of drug use and the learning center of the brain.”
- One more reason to say no.

The Role of the School Board in Providing Safe Schools and Policy Development

- As a parent, wouldn't you want to know if your child was using alcohol and illegal drugs?
- Establish a Safe Schools Committee (SSC) to review the possibility of random student drug testing.
- SSC made up of staff, parents, clergy, and students.
- Staff met internally with the SSC and with the Board from February 25, 2004- October 19, 2004. Three SSC meetings, five staff meetings and five board meetings.
- Policy FNF (Local) approved November 1, 2004.
- What is tested?

The Role of the Principal in Implementing a Random Drug Testing Policy

- Campus Procedures-Quantity, time, and effort
- Sanctions
- 1st Offense-15 Days
- 2nd Offense-45 Days
- 3rd Offense-1 Calendar Year
- Counseling Support

Early Findings

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Drug Violations	39	85	57
Alcohol Violations	1	7	10

Smarter Student Drug Testing

A Scientific Study

What is smart Testing?

- Its about maximizing results (Deterrent)
- Using minimum resources
  - Time
  - Money

Purpose of Random Testing

- Provide a deterrent
- Incentive to change behavior
- It is NOT about catching people who use drugs

3 Issues Schools Face

- Drug Test Panel

  Which specific drugs should be in your test panel?

- Random Pool Penetration

  How many students should you test ?

- Frequency

  How often should the school test?

Drug Test Panel

- Use Local experts for advice
- Core panel should ALWAYS include:
  - Marijuana
  - Cocaine
  - Amphetamines/Methamphetamines
  - Opiates

Random Pool Penetration

How many to test?

United States Department of Transportation mandates workplace testing

<u>Minimum of 50%</u>

United States Military mandates a minimum of 300%

Special Interests Drugs

Anabolic Steroids

- Very expensive
- Recommend Randomly Selecting Students for Anabolic Steroid

Goal

Must test enough students that <u>every</u> student believes he or she will be tested

Frequency

- Must be often enough that students believe today may be the day
- Our experience indicates at least once per month

Goal

- Test for drugs students use
- Test enough students to provide deterrent
- Test often enough to provide deterrent

Test Methods

- Blood
- Urine
- Hair
- Oral Fluids
- Sweat

Urine

Pros	**Cons**	**Window of Det.**
Most accurate Least Expensive Most flexibility Withstand legal challenge	Tamper with specimen Limited detection time Viewed as invasive or embarrassing	Typically 1-5 days

Hair

Pros	**Cons**	**Window of Det.**
Longer detection Not invasive Measure chronic drug use Difficult to adulterate	More expensive Limited to 5 drugs Will not detect recent use	Depends on length of hair, 1 ½ inch would detect 3-month history

Oral Fluids

Pros	**Cons**	**Window of Det.**
Direct observation Min. risk of tampering Non-invasive Easy to collect Recent drug use	Less efficient in detecting marijuana Drug metabolites do not remain in oral fluids as long	Approx. 10-24 hours

Sweat Patch

Pros	**Cons**	**Window of Det.**
Non-Invasive Quick application and removal Longer window of Detection No substitution possible	Limited number of labs able to process Some people cant wear patch Passive exposure may contaminate patch	Retains evidence of drug use for 7 days,detect low levels of drugs 2-5 hours later

For a complete copy please visit our website at:

www.Pinnacledrugtesting.com