

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

STUDENTS

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Student-Athlete Drug Testing

5530.1 STUDENT ATHLETE AND STUDENT PARKING PERMIT DRUG TESTING

The Washington Township Board of Education finds that deterring drug use by school-age children is a compelling educational and community interest. The Board recognizes that drug use is a serious threat to the health and safety of all its students, as well as a disruptive influence to the educational process. However, the risk of the immediate physical harm is particularly high with respect to student-athletes and students who possess school parking permits. It is imperative that the Board take steps to deter and eradicate drug use among the District's student population.

In order to ensure that the District's student-athletes do not use drugs, the Board of Education has adopted the procedures in Regulation 5530.1 authorizing random urinalysis drug testing of all students who choose to participate in the District's interscholastic athletic programs, including Cheerleading, students who possess school parking permits, and testing as required by NJSIAA, in accordance with the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Veronia School District 47J v. Acton*, 115 S.ct 2386 (1995).

This random Drug Testing Policy is not designed to be punitive. It is designed to create a safe, drug-free environment for student-athletes and to assist them in receiving help when needed. At the same time, the Board recognizes that participation in interscholastic sports as a representative of the Washington Township School District is a privilege, not a right, and therefore zero tolerance of drug use is a requirement for all student athletes.

While the Board is in favor of random drug testing of the student body in general as being consistent with the Board's mission to help deter and prevent drug use for students attending the Washington Township Public Schools, the Board also recognizes the limits imposed by the federal and state constitutions and court decisions regarding random drug testing of all public school students. The Board shall continue to enforce all policies and administrative procedures regarding individualized suspicion testing for the general student population.

Adopted: 25 August 1998

Revised & Approved: 18 December 2007

Revised & Approved: 28 August 2017

