

June 20, 2017

Dear Parent, Guardian and Student:

On May 23, 2017, the Warren City School District Board of Education passed policy 5530.01; Drug Testing of Students Involved in Non-Academic Activities. Suspected use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs is a serious concern and the Warren City Schools Board of Education and Administration believe that a stronger program of deterrence can be a proactive approach to promoting a truly drug free school environment. Policy 5530.01 directs the Superintendent of Schools to establish procedures for the implementation of substance abuse testing for students in grades 7-12 that participate in non-academic activities.

The purpose of creating a drug testing program shall be:

1. To provide for the safety of all students;
2. To undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing legitimate reasons for students to refuse to use drugs, tobacco and alcohol;
3. To encourage students who abuse drugs to participate in a drug treatment program; and
4. To prevent the impact drug, alcohol and tobacco use has on the learning centers of the brain, allowing students to achieve their full potential while attending the Warren City Schools.

This policy and attached administrative guidelines are a proactive approach to addressing a very serious societal concern facing our community. The goal of this program is to get students the assistance they need if they are using and/or abusing drugs and alcohol while further promoting a stronger, positive school climate conducive to student learning and success. This program is non-punitive and any student that has a positive test result will only be removed from the privilege of participating in the activity, not removed from school under suspension/expulsion provided their conduct is not in violation of the WCS Student Guide to Positive Behavior.

Attached for your review is the administrative guideline for Board of Education Policy 5530.01. This letter, along with policy 5530.01 and related administrative guidelines are also available by going to our district web page, warrenschoools.k12.oh.us.

Thank you, in advance for your continued support of our youth in Warren City Schools!

Steve Chiaro
Superintendent