

Michael Hinojosa, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



May 1, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians of Dallas ISD Students:

The Dallas ISD is continuing its efforts to inform parents, students and staff about the dangers of heroin/"Cheese." Cheese is a mixture of ground up Tylenol PM and black tar heroin. It is extremely addictive, easy to overdose, and may lead to death. The drug is inexpensive and most students are not fully aware of its dangers. Students from all age brackets may be lured to purchase, transport, use and/or sell this toxic drug. The attached document provides information on this toxic drug to assist you in being informed and keeping your child safe.

The district has taken many steps to eliminate this drug from our schools, including educating students about its dangers, utilizing random drug searches, cameras in our high schools, training staff, and heightening security and vigilance. The district will enforce the Student Code of Conduct for students who possess, use or sell drugs at school; however, students in need of assistance or intervention are strongly encouraged to seek help from the school nurse or counselor. If your child needs help fighting addiction, contact the Dallas ISD Safe and Drug Free School Department at (972) 925-8040. Voluntary drug testing is also available through this department. Already more than 6,500 parents have agreed to free, voluntary drug testing for their children. A form is attached that you can submit to the school nurse/counselor to have your child(ren) tested for drugs.

While your child might not be aware of drug abuse, every child is at risk, and we, as the school district, must take every opportunity to warn parents and students about the dangers of this toxic drug. To inform our community of the urgency and severity of this problem, three town hall meetings are scheduled at the following schools:

School/Location	Date/Time	Campus Contact
North Dallas High School	May 6, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.	Eduardo Hernandez, Principal
Sunset High School	May 12, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.	Mark Ramirez, Interim Principal
Thomas Jefferson High School	May 20, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.	Manuel Ontiveros, Principal

Parents, please talk to your children about the dangers of this and other drug use. It will be important to remain vigilant and mindful of the symptoms and withdrawal signs associated with this drug, and to be alert to negative behavioral changes in your child(ren). It is important to know your child's friends and classmates and to be familiar with their parents. This is a community wide problem and will require cooperation from all the community's health, education, religious, and law enforcement agencies.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your school counselor or nurse. Additionally, if you have information about drug dealers or drug locations, contact the Dallas ISD Police Narcotics Hotline at (214) 932-5695. We must all work together to ensure the district does not lose another student to this deadly drug or have another student caught in its addiction.

Respectfully,



Michael Hinojosa, Ed.D.  
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