



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Revisions to the Controlled Substance Policy BP & AR 5131.61

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The “Why”

- Following consultation meetings with stakeholders, revisions are proposed to BP & AR 5131.61 – Controlled Substance. The primary proposed changes are to the AR.
- Purpose:
 - To have more balanced response to controlled substance violations.
 - To make better use of our counseling resources by not having a “one size fits all” approach. Alternatively, the propose changes incorporate an individualized “Action Plan” into our response that include counseling, education, and service.



Changes - Elementary

- Reduced the number of days of suspension to one (1) day for the first offense and three (3) days for the second offense.
- Allows for possible cancellation of an interdistrict permit for a first offense, and requires cancellation for a second offense.
- The Principal or designee works with the student and parents and, on a second offense, a mental health counselor, to develop an Action Plan.
 - We have not had any violations at the elementary level in the last three years (if not longer).



Changes - Secondary

- Reduced the number of days of suspension to three (3) days for the first offense and five (5) days for the second offense. Suspension days are the same for middle and high school.
- Allows for possible cancellation of an interdistrict permit for a first offense and requires cancellation for a second offense.
- The Principal or designee works with the student, parents, Principal or designee, and mental health counselor to develop an Action Plan. Requires an individualized assessment by a counselor regarding student's use of controlled substances and/or alcohol.



Secondary - First Offense Response

- Three (3)-day suspension
- Mandatory meeting with a mental health counselor trained in identifying drug or alcohol dependency. The counselor will recommend to the Principal or designee requirements, if any, for further counseling. This meeting will take place during the suspension period.
- While suspended, completion of an online education program that addresses the effects of alcohol, tobacco and drug use, and how usage affects a person's life.



Secondary - First Offense Response (continued)

- Mandatory post-suspension parent/student meeting with the Principal or designee where an Action Plan is developed that will include requirements for further counseling, service and any other recommendations designed to prevent a second offense.
- For middle school, five (5) hours of community or school service.
- For high school, ten (10) hours of community or school service.
- Potential loss of promotion/graduation for failing to fulfill the requirements of the Action Plan.
- Possible cancellation of interdistrict permit.



Secondary - Second Offense Response

- Five (5)-day suspension
- Review and revise/update of previous Action Plan to include possible involuntary transfer to another school in the District.
- Recommendation for expulsion, unless the Principal or designee determines that expulsion should not be recommended under the circumstances.
- For middle school, ten (10) hours of community or school services.
- For high school, fifteen (15) hours of community or school service.
- Potential loss of promotion/graduation for failing to fulfill the requirements of the Action Plan.
- Cancellation of interdistrict permit.

Questions?

