



Method Schools Board Policy BP 6.1

Tobacco, Drugs, and Alcohol

Drugs and Alcohol

Method Schools takes the use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol by any student seriously. Students involved in the possession, sale and/or use of behavior affecting substances shall be subject to disciplinary procedures which may result in suspension or expulsion.

Method Schools is committed to taking positive action through education, counseling, parental involvement, medical referral, and police referral in the handling of incidents in the schools involving the possession, sale, and/or use of behavior affecting substances and drug paraphernalia. These substances shall include but not be limited to marijuana, LSD, glue, alcohol, and barbiturates.

School properties may be inspected by school authorities in the interest of maintenance, health and safety. Inspections for the location of drugs, narcotics, liquor, weapons, poisons, and missing properties are matters relating to health and safety and may be regarded as reasonable purposes for inspection by school personnel; so long as such inspections are conducted in accordance with constitutional requirements of applicable state law relating to searches and seizures.

Use of Possession

1. No internal medication is to be administered to students by school personnel except as prescribed by a doctor.
2. Dangerous and narcotic drugs which a student has on prescription for ingestion as prescribed by a doctor must be in their original containers and kept in the nurse's or Director/Principal's office, whichever provides greater security
3. Whenever any staff member has reason to believe that a student may be under drug influence, he/she shall immediately notify the Director/Principal. The Director/Principal, if in agreement, shall notify the parent to come for the student and to remove the student to his/her home, to the jurisdiction of the police, and/or the paramedics.
4. In severe cases, if the parents or the doctor cannot or will not come to the school, the Director/Principal is authorized to call an ambulance to remove the student to a hospital. Parents will be notified of this action and shall be responsible for the incurred expenses.

5. In any first offense in which students illegally use or possess prescription or non-prescription drugs, including alcohol, marijuana, or inhalants, at school or at school activities, the following will result:
 - a. Suspension from school for at least five (5) days.
 - b. Referral to the proper police authority.
 - c. A parent conference.
 - d. A schedule of regular appointments with a school counselor or other school official.

In addition, the following action may be taken:

- a. Transfer to another school or alternative education program as appropriate.
 - b. Recommendation for expulsion.
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6. A second incidence of use or possession of illegal drugs within one year at any school or school activity will result in a recommendation for expulsion as provided for in Education Code 48900.

Selling or Providing

When there is reason to believe that a student is selling or is in possession of drugs, the following procedures listed below will be followed:

1. The school administrator shall advise the local juvenile narcotics officer or law enforcement personnel. Juvenile authorities will make the decision as to whether they or the school will notify the parent.
2. The school administrator will escort the student to the school office and confront him/her with the suspicion. The administrator may notify the police before taking the student to the office. The student should be removed from a classroom by a school administrator or designee when there is reasonable cause.
3. For reasonable cause, a search for drugs may be made by the administrator. This may include searching the student's locker and/or other School-owned facilities such as science drawers, shop lockers, etc. Such search should be conducted by the administrator with at least one other certificated person as witness. No school staff member should search a student, but may ask student to volunteer for self-search. In cases when a personal search seems to be in order, the administrator should call for a law enforcement officer to make the search. Repeated attempts shall be made to notify the student's parent/guardian before the personal search is made.

4. The student may be questioned by the school administrator without notifying the student of his/her rights, but if the administrator believes that a law has been broken, the police will be notified.

When there is good evidence that a student has actually used, sold or is in possession of narcotics or drug paraphernalia on or about school premises or at school-sponsored functions, the police must be notified. Regardless of any legal action taken by the police, the School must immediately suspend the student according to the provisions of BP/AR 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process. The school administrator may, at his/her discretion, recommend expulsion to the Governing Board.