



# Millbrae School District

555 Richmond Drive, Millbrae, CA 94030

650-697-5693 • 650-697-6865 (fax) • <http://www.millbraeschooldistrict.org>

LINDA LUNA  
Superintendent

CYNTHIA SHIEH  
Chief Business Official

SUSAN PALMER  
Director of Student Services

## Safety on School Campus

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Dear Parents:

Safety on our school campuses continues to be a high priority in Millbrae School District. We work closely with our Police Department to insure that we maintain the highest standards of safety possible, both in our schools and in our city. These measures are implemented to insure the safety of your child.

It is equally important that we insure that our faculty and staff have a safe and non-threatening professional environment. Parental statements which are considered to be verbal threats regarding faculty and staff are not acceptable under any circumstances. Please be advised that it is our procedure in Millbrae School District to report all such statements to the Millbrae Police Department for follow-up action.

For your information, I wish to review for you the Education Code of the State of California and our own District Expulsion Plan. The laws listed below govern our schools and represent a zero-tolerance policy towards the offenses listed for our students.

- A. Education Code 48915(c) requires that the following offenses result in immediate suspension followed by a mandatory recommendation for expulsion, followed by mandatory expulsion; provided the facts bear out the offense:
1. Student found to be in possession of, or furnishing, a firearm at school or at a school activity off school grounds. This includes a BB gun or other spring action gun because of its ability to cause serious injury.
  2. Student brandishing a knife at a person.
  3. Student selling a controlled substance.
  4. Student committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or sexual battery.
  5. Student possessing an explosive.

NOTE: Expulsion for mandatory offenses must be for a minimum of one year, after which a student may be considered for readmission after a special hearing.

- B. For the following offenses, the principal or superintendent must recommend expulsion of the pupil unless the principal or the superintendent finds that expulsion is inappropriate under the circumstances. The expulsion is not mandatory, but the governing board may decide to hold a hearing and may determine that expulsion is appropriate given the evidence presented:
1. Causing serious injury to another, except in self-defense
  2. Possession of a knife, explosive, or other dangerous object
  3. Unlawful possession of a controlled substance or the drug "Soma"
  4. Robbery or extortion
  5. Assault or battery upon any school employee

Expulsion for these offenses will be for at least one trimester, after which a student may be considered for readmission after a special hearing.

Additionally, a pupil may be suspended and/or expelled for possession of an imitation firearm. An "imitation firearm" means a replica so substantially similar to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude the replica is, in fact, a firearm. So, if a toy gun looks real, the consequences will be serious.

- D. Districts are required to report any of the violations listed in A and B above to law enforcement. In fact, it is an infraction for a district to fail to report these acts. So--we must call the police.
- E. The definition of a knife means any dirk, sharpened blade fitted primarily for stabbing, a folding knife with a blade that locks into place, or a razor with an unguarded blade. The penal code establishes 2 1/2 inches as the length of the blade to be considered a knife, and which must be reported to the police.  
  
So, even a small Swiss army knife or Boy Scout knife could fit this definition.
- F. The law now allows the governing board subpoena powers for the purpose of requiring the personal appearance of witnesses at an expulsion hearing.
- G. Pupils expelled from school for any of the offenses listed in either A or B above will not be permitted to enroll in another school district during the period of expulsion. They may enroll only in a county community school, a juvenile court school, or a community day school.
- H. Other infractions of school rules may result in suspension and expulsion, including:
  - damaging, stealing, or receiving stolen school or private property
  - possessing or using tobacco or nicotine products
  - possessing, using, or selling drug paraphernalia
  - committing an obscene act, profanity, or vulgarity
  - defying school authority
  - disrupting school activities
  - harassing, threatening, or intimidating a pupil or school personnel
  - acts of hate violence
  - engaging in, or attempting to engage in, "hazing"
  - terrorist threats

We believe it is important to remind you of the laws governing our schools. If your child is old enough to be made aware of these laws, please inform him/her.

We wish to protect all of our students, faculty, staff, and community from the consequences that may result from acts of this nature.

Additionally, please be advised that all of our school campuses are Tobacco Free and Drug Free Zones. Smoking or use of any tobacco-related products and disposal of any tobacco-related waste is prohibited. (This extends to within 25 feet of any playground.) Possession or use of alcohol and drugs is also prohibited. Note: These restrictions apply to all individuals on our campuses, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Drug Free Zones allow prosecutors to double the sentence for the sale of drugs within 1,000 feet of a school campus.

It is our commitment to provide safe, clean schools which offer a quality education. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in our efforts for your children.

Sincerely,

Linda Luna  
Superintendent