



El Segundo Unified School District Safety Update

November 2, 2018

Dear El Segundo Families and Community Members,

Safety continues to be a focus area for El Segundo Unified School District. I would like to provide you an update regarding specific projects and the implementation of new procedures at our schools. As noted in a previous update, these changes are informed by the comprehensive safety assessment conducted by Dave Klug from Actus Consulting last Spring.

1. Behavioral Threat Assessment

All appropriate school personnel have completed training in threat assessment protocol. As an added resource, the Sprigeo anonymous reporting application is now available as a resource at the middle and high school levels for students and parents. Our administrators are actively investigating concerns that have been reported and appropriately intervening when necessary.

2. Physical Security Enhancements

Physical security enhancements are also actively in progress. The 8 ft. tall perimeter fencing at Richmond Street School is complete. The ornamental fencing for Center Street is being fabricated and we anticipated completion of the fence by the end of November. The addition of the two safety employees have been well received by parents, students and faculty at El Segundo Middle School and El Segundo High School. These employees have improved campus safety and security by circulating around the campus, checking restrooms, and assisting with supervision of students throughout the school day. The safety employees have also provided support at the elementary schools as needed.

On another note, the electronic visitor access system has been added at Richmond Street School. We are piloting the system at Richmond prior to the district-wide rollout to all locations within the next two months. The Raptor technology requires visitors to provide a driver's license and the technology screens the information against the Megan's Law database. Cleared visitors receive a name badge with their picture printed on it. This system is quickly becoming the industry norm and provides another essential layer of security on our campuses.

At the El Segundo Middle and High Schools, vape detectors have been added to the restrooms. Vaporizers or electronic cigarettes are handheld electronic devices that simulate the feeling of smoking. It works by heating a liquid to generate an aerosol,

commonly known as vapor that the user inhales. The vape detectors are fully operational. The detectors electronically alert the administrators if certain conditions are present in the restroom.

3. Response Protocols in Schools

A Violent Intruder protocol for students has been implemented and school sites have trained students how to respond during such an event. We will host a parent education on the topic at a later date. All school safety plans have been strengthened to include the protocols outlined by our safety consultant.

4. Student Support

Informed by the California Healthy Kids Survey and recommendations from the District Wellness Committee, we are taking steps to better align the emotional and mental health supports available to students from K-12. Our elementary team has been trained in the RULER social-emotional learning program and our secondary team will be trained in January. We have partnered with South Bay Families Connected to develop a parent resource page that families will be able to access in the near future regarding local resources to support families. We have also added a counselor at the elementary level and added additional hours of counseling at El Segundo Middle School.

5. Message from El Segundo Police Department

As part of our partnership with El Segundo Police Department, I have included information regarding the Social Host Ordinance. This ordinance was enacted upon by a City Council resolution and is currently in affect.

These pro-active steps will continue to strengthen the learning environment and our school communities. By working together and communicating openly – and especially by talking with and listening to our students, parents and community – we can continue to offer the best opportunities for students and build a better future together.

With Gratitude,

Melissa Moore, Ed.D.

Superintendent

El Segundo Unified School District

Message from El Segundo Police Department Regarding Social Host Ordinance

The El Segundo City Council has enacted a Social Host Ordinance (SHO) that is currently in effect. Please see the information below on what the SHO is and what activities are governed:

Q: What is a social host ordinance?

A: A social host ordinance (“SHO”) is a local, city-specific law that holds individuals responsible for hosting or knowingly allowing a gathering to occur at which underage drinking or recreational marijuana use takes place. Venues for such gatherings include homes, hotel/motel rooms, and other private locations. The purpose of an SHO is to establish liability and serve as a deterrent to underage drinking and drug use.

Q: How is an SHO different than the laws that already exist regarding underage drinking and drug use?

A: State law makes it illegal to (1) provide alcohol to minors under the age of 21; (2) possess or consume alcohol in a public or commercial setting; and (3) possess marijuana for recreational use if you are under 21. The purpose of a social host ordinance is not to criminalize conduct which is already against state law, but to make it illegal to provide an environment where underage drinking or illegal drug-use takes place, regardless of who provides the alcohol or marijuana. Said differently, a social host ordinance assigns responsibility to those who knew or should have known that a party was occurring on their private property which involved underage drinking or recreational marijuana use.

Q: Did El Segundo really need an SHO?

A: The following statistics are pulled directly from El Segundo’s results for the *California Healthy Kids Survey* that was given to our students at ESMS and ESHS this year (2017-2018):

Alcohol consumption

For a substance that is not intended for minors, it has been found that consumption of alcohol to those under 21 increases with age. In 7th grade, 4% of the students said they drank alcohol – that’s twelve 13-14 year old kids who have already experimented. 51 students (or 17%) in 9th grade admitting to drinking at 15-16 years of age. 27% (81 students) in 11th grade said that they had drank alcohol.

When asked if students had consumed alcohol within 30 days of taking part in the survey: 7% of 9th graders ((23) 13-14 year olds) said that they’ve had 1 or more drinks of alcohol over the course of 1 or 2 days; 13% (33 students) of 11th graders indicated they had, while

an additional 4% (twelve 16-17 year olds) said that they had been binge drinking for 1 or 2 days.

Marijuana consumption

The number of students at ESMS and ESHS who abstain from marijuana consumption decreases with age:

3% of 7th graders have used marijuana, this action increases to 8% of 9th graders and in 11th grade nearly 20%, about 50 students, have used marijuana.

The following speaks to the prevalence of illegal substances and its accessibility to minors: How many times in the past 12 months have you been offered, sold or given an illegal drug on campus?

In 7th grade 3% of the students have been approached on campus. In 9th grade 13% were offered sold or given an illegal drug on campus and in 11th grade, it increases to 17%.

In the past 12 months 11% of the 7th graders stated that they had used drugs or alcohol. This number increases to 18% of 9th graders and increases even further to 30% of 11th graders. This is nearly 100 students in only 1 grade level that have used drugs or alcohol.

What do students perceive the level of difficulty of getting alcohol?

29% of 7th graders said it was very easy or fairly easy.

48% of 9th graders and 34% of 11th graders agreed.

What do students perceive is the level of difficulty of getting marijuana?

18% of 7th graders said it was very easy or fairly easy – that's 55 students: 42% for 9th graders (126 students) and 55% for 11th graders (165 students).

What are the sources for alcohol?

At the 9th and 11th grade level, 37% and 45% of the respondents indicated that parties were sources for alcohol. This was the most common source for alcohol.

Q: What is the goal of the ordinance?

A: The goal of SHO is to decrease underage drinking by reducing what research has shown is a primary source of youth access to alcohol- parties and gatherings in homes and other locations. Often at these events, underage drinkers obtain alcohol through older friends and adults. They encourage adults to avoid unsafe environments that foster high-risk, destructive behavior. They assist families in making healthy decisions and provide underage youth with support to avoid peer-pressure situations. They also give law enforcement a vital tool to prevent tragedy and address underage drinking locally. A study published in 2014 by the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs concluded that local policies which include strict liability and civil penalties which are imposed administratively may be associated with less frequent underage drinking in private settings, particularly among adolescents who had already initiated alcohol use.

In El Segundo, the ordinance will do the following:

- Define “responsible person” as either a person in charge of the premises when the gathering occurs, or the person who organized the gathering. Under this definition, a “responsible person” includes persons of all ages, including those under the age of 21.
- Define “responsible adult” as a person 21 years of age or older who owns, rents, leases, or otherwise has control over the premises where the gathering occurs.
- Define a “gathering” as 3 or more individuals.

Provide that a fine will be imposed when:

A responsible adult is present during a gathering where minors are consuming alcohol or marijuana; a responsible person is present during a gathering where minors are consuming alcohol or marijuana and at least one of the minors is obviously intoxicated or under the influence of marijuana; or a responsible person is present during a gathering where minors are consuming alcohol or marijuana and a warning for alcohol/marijuana use has been issued at the property within the last 12 months.

• Impose one fine per incident (where a fine is appropriate). For a first offense, the fine will be \$1,000. A second violation (within a 12-month period) carries a fine of \$2,000 and a third offense (within a 12-month period) carries a fine of \$5,000. These fines were set by a City Council resolution.

The ordinance will not:

- Hold a social host liable for the cost of responding law enforcement services
- Increase police authority to enter private property. Cities cannot enact a law that grants police officers with greater authority to enter a person's property than already exists under Federal law;
- Create the ability to double-fine. Depending on the circumstances, only the responsible adult or responsible person will be held in violation of the ordinance, not both;
- Regulate any premises licensed by the ABC;
- Regulate the possession or consumption of an alcoholic beverage in connection with a religious or cultural activity;
- Regulate any conduct protected by state law; or
- Penalize a responsible person who requests immediate assistance from law enforcement to remove violators or to terminate an unlawful gathering, or who requests immediate medical assistance related to marijuana use or alcohol consumption.

Q: Do SHOs work?

A: In communities where social host ordinances have been enacted, law enforcement officers report that the law is a useful tool in addressing underage drinking parties. The vast majority of citations for violations of social host ordinances are issued for first offenses. Over time, the passage of a social host ordinance results in fewer calls for service for law enforcement. Communities with social host ordinances have fewer large underage drinking parties.

Source: <http://www.chemicalpeople.org/socialhostordinance/>

California Healthy Kids Survey data for Thousand Oaks students demonstrated decreases in ease of obtaining alcohol since the implementation of the ordinance - 59% of 9th graders and 78% of 11 graders reported that alcohol is fairly or very easy to obtain in Fall 2007, as compared to 65% and 84% of 9th and 11th graders before the ordinance was passed. The majority of persons who received a Social Host violation have done so only once. That is, only 4% of violators were repeat offenders.

Q: Who supported an SHO in El Segundo?

A: Many residents and community members support the City's ordinance. This includes the ROAD (Reach Out Again Drugs) Organization, El Segundo Unified School District, El Segundo PTA Council, school administrators and teachers, law enforcement, health care providers, emergency responders, residents and community members.

Q: Where are SHOs being enforced?

A: Many states and local communities have exacted social host laws to reduce underage drinking in private settings, including:

- Manhattan Beach
- Palos Verdes Estates
- Hermosa Beach
- Rancho Palos Verdes
- Rolling Hills
- Rolling Hills Estates

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lieutenant Dan Kim at (310) 524-2267 or dkim@elsegundo.org.