
HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING

Harding Fine Arts Academy specifically prohibits harassment, intimidation, and bullying of or by any student on school grounds, in school vehicles, at school-sponsored activities, or school-sanctioned events. "Harassment, intimidation, and bullying" means any gesture, written or verbal expression, or physical act that a reasonable person should know will harm another student, damage another student's property, place another student in reasonable fear of harm to that student's person, or damage to the student's property, or insult or demean any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. "Harassment, intimidation, and bullying" include, but are not limited to, gestures or written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts.

Harassment, intimidation, and bullying through electronic communication are likewise prohibited. "Electronic communication" is defined as the communication of any written, verbal, or pictorial information by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, a cellular telephone or other wireless telecommunication devices, or a computer. A specific electronic communication does not need to originate at a school or with school equipment to be included under this policy if it is specifically directed at students or school personnel and contains harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

Student behavior that is serious enough to be considered assault or relates to weapons, and which can be classified as "harassment, intimidation, and bullying," will be dealt with as outlined in the Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug, Assault Behavior, and Weapons Policy. Otherwise, bullying behavior will be dealt with as directed by the Harding Fine Arts Administration.

Copies of this policy will be made available upon request to parents, students, or other interested parties.

The search of Students, Student Lockers, Student Property and School-Wide Searches

The Board recognizes its responsibility for the safety and welfare of the students and faculty. A search of an individual student, student property, lockers, or school-wide searches may be conducted to safeguard the educational process, preserve discipline and order, and promote the safety and security of persons and their property. A student or student's property may be searched when the student is reasonably suspected of having violated a school policy or a state criminal statute.

The school principal may authorize school-wide searches, including the use of metal detection devices, after making the determination that school-wide searches are necessary to detect the presence of

dangerous weapons, contraband or to deter potential school violence. School officials may search school property, including desks and lockers, at any time. Because students do not have privacy rights on school property, lockers, desks, and student property may be searched when there exists reasonable suspicion that a violation of state law or school policy has occurred.

Items that violate state law or school policy shall not be stored in lockers or desks. At least one witness must be present during the search of student property, locker, or desk. Group or individual student searches may be made when a student is on school premises, upon entering a district property, while in transit under the authority of the school, or while in attendance of any function that Harding Fine Arts Academy sponsors or authorizes.

Conducting a search of the student's person:

- A person of the same gender as the person being searched shall conduct the search.
- Another authorized person of the same gender will be present as a witness, if practicable.
- No student's clothing, except cold-weather outerwear, may be removed prior to or during the search.
- Students may be required to empty their pockets or remove shoes. Strip searches are prohibited.