

## **Drug & Bullying Policy**

G-Star School of the Arts is one of the safest schools in the nation. With a student population of 1100 and small class sizes, our school keeps a close watch on our students, particularly when it comes to inappropriate or threatening behavior (bullying) and the use of drugs.

**EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO A SAFE AND SECURE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. G-STAR IS UNEQUIVOCALLY COMMITTED TO PROVIDING SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR OUR STUDENTS.**

The moment drug use or bullying is reported we bring the alleged offender(s) and witnesses to the office for a full investigation. If the offense is verified at the end of the investigation, it is entered into the student's record and becomes permanent documentation.

### **Drug Offense:**

The seriousness of even the most mild or casual drug use cannot be excused away by old paradigms. Today, there are violent gangs in Palm Beach County who deal in drugs being sold to teenagers.

G-Star School of the Arts is gang-free, but drug users bring the menace of gang activity and physical danger to any school. Innocent bystanders are at risk equally as are the drug users themselves. For this reason, G-Star does not tolerate any drug use of any kind on or off campus.

The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled in *The State of New Jersey vs. T.L.O. (1985)* decision that every school in the nation has the right of loco parentis, meaning once a parent drops off a student at school (or from the time the student steps on a school bus) the school assumes certain parental rights. These parental rights are granted "to provide a safe learning environment" for the students. The students relinquish certain 4th Amendment rights. For example, if a parent suspects their child is using drugs and searches their child's room, the child does not have to be read their Miranda Rights, is not entitled to one phone call, and is not entitled to have a lawyer present. These rights are waived at school also. A student does not have to be "caught" or "observed" doing a crime. A suspicion of drug use by the school or the naming of a student as a drug user by another student, even an anonymous report, warrants the search of the student's possessions and the administration of a drug test given at school without notification to the parent.

### **The Procedure:**

When a student is brought into the office for a suspected drug offense, a search is conducted. The student is not touched and they are not "patted down". In front of two administrators or teachers they are instructed to empty their pockets and take off their shoes. They bang their shoes upside-down and then put them back on. Their book bag and/or purse is searched. They are administered a noninvasive drug test\*. If physical possession of illegal drugs of any kind is discovered, the Palm Springs Police Department may be called and the student can be arrested. In serious cases such as this, the student is suspended and then automatically dismissed from the school.

In cases where there are no physical drugs present but there are indications of drug use such as drug paraphernalia, a positive drug test or pictures on the student's cell phone indicating drug use, G-Star may require the dismissal of the student from the school or remedies such as random or regularly scheduled drug testing at a professional drug testing facility at the parent's expense. If a student is found with drugs in their system and placed on drug probation as part of G-Star's remedy then the student must be tested at a professional drug testing facility of G-Star's choosing at the parent's expense once a month for a period of six months. If the student fails any one of those drug tests then he or she may be dismissed from the school.

\*If the student refuses to take a drug test administered at the school then G-Star will view that as an admission of guilt and they will be suspended from the school for 10 days and the parent or student will

then have to provide a drug test showing negative results from a professional drug testing facility of G-Star's choice in order to be admitted back into school. Failure to do so may lead to dismissal from the school.

**Remedies for drug use available to the school:**

Remedies for drug use in the school are available. These include, but not limited to: the use of trained dogs from the K-9 Unit of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the registering of a Sheriff's undercover narcotics agent as a student in the school, which has been done at other Palm Beach County School District schools, and the administering of a noninvasive drug test by the school.

**Bullying:**

In the case of bullying, to be fair, we interview the witnesses on both sides of the issue separately and then compare the information knowing that there are always two sides to every story.

If punishment is evident, the offending party is punished in accordance with, but not limited to, the School District Discipline Policy, which can include suspension or expulsion, and other remedies governed by the School District Discipline Matrix.

If the offense is a low level threat, G-Star will enact mediation to resolve the issue between the students. If the issue is resolved, we monitor the behavior of both parties to make sure the resolution is permanent. In most cases, our experience has been the students become good friends again.

If the incident is serious, including bodily harm, and the witnesses concur, we call the Palm Springs Police Department. They step in and perform their own investigation. Once the police are involved, G-Star is no longer in charge and we comply with their findings and directions. Serious bullying may result in criminal charges against the perpetrator. In serious cases, the student is suspended and is automatically dismissed from the school.

**Cyber-bullying:**

G-Star School's Bullying Policy includes cyber-bullying such as degrading or threatening comments on any social media (examples: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Memes, etc.). Cyber-bullying is handled in the same manner as physical bullying.

Assault & Battery: Assault is the verbal threat of violence by a person with the ability to carry it out. "I am going to hit you," stated by a person with a closed fist or holding an object that could harm someone is assault. Carrying out that threat and touching or hitting someone who has been threatened is battery. Students may be dismissed from the school for assault. Students who carry out assault & battery are turned over to the police and dismissed from the school.

**Dismissal Policy regarding bullying and drug use:**

**At the discretion of the G-Star Administration, a student may be dismissed from the school for any violation of the school's zero tolerance Drug & Bullying Policy any time during the school year.**

**G-Star is a school of Choice; therefore, at the discretion of the G-Star Administration, a student may not be invited back (dismissed) for the following school year for any violation of the school's zero tolerance Drug & Bullying Policy regardless of the disciplinary action taken during the school year.**