

## Freedom of Expression

Belmont Public Schools students have the right to exercise freedom of expression at school, including freedom of speech and of the press, and the right to assemble. Such rights are limited only as allowed by law in order to maintain an orderly school environment and to protect the rights, health and safety of all members of the school community. Freedom of expression does not include the use of obscene, libelous or slanderous expression, the use of abusive or insulting speech, or any expression that may cause disruption or disorder within the school.

Student expression while not at school, including off-campus internet use, shall be subject to discipline when such expression poses a direct threat to the safety of students or school personnel.

### Legal References:

U.S. Constitution, Amendment I

Massachusetts Constitution, Article XIV

MGL 71:82

Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010

MGL 71:370

Cross reference: Students 5012 - Harassment

Students 5013 - Bullying and Hazing