

## Searches

Belmont Public Schools students are guaranteed protection from unreasonable searches and seizures by the U.S. and Massachusetts constitutions. School officials who conduct reasonable searches do not need search warrants. Students may be searched when school officials have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.

School lockers and desks assigned to individual students remain the property of the school and the administration reserves the right to open and inspect any locker or desk and its contents at any time. Personal property may be searched by authorized school officials when there is a reasonable suspicion that a student's property contains stolen articles, illegal items, or other contraband as defined by law or school policy.

Searches by law enforcement officers must conform to all applicable state and federal law.

### Legal References:

U.S. Constitution, Amendment IV  
Massachusetts Constitution, Article XIV  
New Jersey v T.L.O. 469 US 325 (1985)  
Commonwealth v Snyder 413 Mass 521 (1992)  
Commonwealth v Damian D. 434 Mass 725 (2001)

Memorandum of Understanding between the Belmont Public Schools and the Belmont Police Department, October 8, 2009