

Interrogation by Law Enforcement

School administrators will make every effort to protect each student's rights with respect to interrogations by law enforcement officers.

If a law enforcement officer without a court order or warrant requests to question a Belmont Public Schools student at school or while the student is participating in a school sponsored activity the principal shall ensure that the interrogation takes place privately, in the presence of the students' parents/guardians or an administrator when the parents/guardians have authorized a school administrator to act in their place. When police are present, students must be given the same rights as other citizens and they must be informed of these rights before any questions are asked.

A student who is in attendance at school or a school sponsored activity may not be removed for questioning by a law enforcement officer without permission of the student's parents/guardians.

A case worker from the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF), or a law enforcement officer investigating suspected abuse or neglect may be permitted to question and examine a student at school without notice by the school administration to the student's parents/guardians.

Legal References:

U.S. Constitution, Amendment XIV
Massachusetts, Constitution Article XIV
MGL 119:51A & B