

PARENTAL/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

1. Definitions – Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply to this policy:
 - a. Parent: Although involvement of a student’s mother, father, or legal guardian is the special focus of this policy, the Board recognizes that all persons concerned with the education of students should work together to meet student needs; thus, as used herein, the term “parent” refers in a broad sense to any of the caring adults who play a significant role in the care of a student enrolled in the School.
 - b. School: As used herein, the term “School” refers to South Tech Charter Academy, Inc..
2. Parental/Family Involvement: A School/Home Partnership:
 - a. The Board recognizes that among the factors necessary to improve learning are:
 - i. A sound educational program, and
 - ii. Consistent voluntary involvement of parents, and other influential adults.
 - b. The Board recognizes that parental involvement is a desirable element in effective education, and that student achievement can reach higher levels when parents, schools and the community work together in a collaborative endeavor to support student learning.
 - c. Although parents are of diverse cultures, languages, and needs, they share the desire for the educational success of their children. Hence, the programs and practices established by the School, in collaboration with parents and the community through the school improvement process, shall support family involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families. The School has the responsibility to involve parents, and parents have the responsibility to become involved in the School.
3. Communication: - In accordance with Fla. Stat. 230.23(15)(b), the Board encourages teachers and administrators to keep parents informed of student progress, programs, attendance, and the availability of resources for academic assistance.
4. Family-Friendly School – The school buildings should be a welcoming place, clearly accessible to parents, consistent with established security procedures and the Academy President or Management Company Representative authority under the School Code and case law. Parental access shall not interfere with the rights of students, teachers and administrators to have an orderly instructional environment.
5. National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs:

The Governing Board endorses the following standards as set forth in the *National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs* as adopted by the National PTA.

- a. Standard I: Communicating – The Board encourages communication between the home and school that is on-going, interactive, and reasonably accommodates all parents, including those with limited English proficiency or disabilities. Interaction with parents should be handled in a non-judgmental manner that recognizes a variety of parental styles, family structures and circumstances; as well as individual differences reflected in the values, cultures, and diversity of the student population. Regular parent/teacher dialogue is encouraged at all grade levels.
- b. Standard II: Parenting – The Board is supportive of basic adult literacy on topics such as nutrition, health, self-esteem, parent-child communication, motivation, discipline, child development, monitoring television viewing, monitoring internet usage, assisting with homework, and other topics that enable parents to be full partners in the education of their children.

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- c. Standard III: Student Learning: - The Board endorses assisting parents to play an integral role in student learning by providing parents information on grade-level expectations and their children's progress toward proficiency, specific activities that can be done at home, and how to partner with teachers to maximize student achievement.
- d. Standard IV: Volunteering – The Board is supportive of the creation of meaningful volunteer opportunities. Parents are welcome in the School, pursuant to Board policy, and their support and assistance are sought.
- e. Standard V: School Decision Making and Advocacy – The Board encourages the involvement of parents as full partners in the decisions and practices of the School that affects children and families through the School improvement process, the School Advisory Council (SAC), PTSA and other decision making groups as appropriate.
- f. Standard VI: Collaborating with the Community – The Board supports the strengthening of school programs, family practices, and student learning through the integration of community resources and business partnerships consistent with Fla. Stat. 230.005(5). Schools and parent groups should actively recruit persons to serve as role models and mentors.

Authority: 230.22(1)(2); 230.23(22); 230.23005(5) FS

Implemented: 230.03(2); 230.22(1); 230.005(5); 231.07; 231.085(1) FS

Reference: Palm Beach School District Policy 1.015, National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs issued by the National PTA (1998), ISBN 0-88109-002-6

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