

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

1. The Governing Board is committed to a policy of public information which is based on the belief that the public schools belong to the people who created them by consent and who support them by taxation. Consistent with legal requirements, the Board will make every effort to enhance public knowledge and understanding of, and encourage participation in, South Tech Charter Academy, Inc. goals and programs. The Board, therefore, maintains this Public Information Policy to:
  - a. keep the citizens regularly and thoroughly informed through reasonable channels of communication on the programs, needs, and objectives of South Tech Charter Academy, Inc..
  - b. invite and foster advice and counsel of the people at all reasonable times and especially at public hearings and all regular, special, and workshop meetings of the Board which are open to the public under Florida's Sunshine Law.
2. It is the responsibility of each department and advisory committee to facilitate the dissemination of information by keeping the Office of the Academy President informed of all requests by media representatives for information of all newsworthy events within their area of authority.
3. Public Meetings and Notices
  - a. Pursuant to Fla. Const. Art. 1, par. 24(b) and FS 286.011, all meetings of the Governing Board or its' committees, at which official acts are to be taken or at which public business is to be transacted or discussed, shall be open and noticed to the public, except with respect to meetings or hearings exempted from the open-meetings requirements pursuant the state constitution or general law as interpreted by Florida courts and the Florida Attorney General.
  - b. In addition to the notices of board public meetings and hearings given pursuant to the Sunshine Law or the Administrative Procedure Act, any personnel responsible for scheduling such meetings should ensure that the South Tech Charter Academy, Inc. webmaster is informed of each public meeting or hearing for listing on the website at: [southtechhighschool.com](http://southtechhighschool.com).
4. Responsibility for Media Relations
  - a. Consistent with the requirements of South Tech Charter Academy, Inc. Board Policy 2.031 concerning public records requests, the school principal has primary responsibility for responding to inquiries from news media on behalf the Academy and for encouraging media coverage of newsworthy events.
5. Campus Visits
  - a. Any person seeking to visit the school campus, including news media representatives, shall be required to request permission from the Academy President by telephone or in person and shall report to the main office upon arrival on campus, prior to any contact with students, staff or volunteers.
  - b. The President may exercise reasonable discretion to grant or deny permission to visitors to enter the school or property or to remain on the grounds pursuant to FS 231.085(1).

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

Implemented: FS 230.22(1), 230.23(15), 230.23005(5), 231.07, 231.085

Reference: Palm Beach School Board Policy 2.04

History: New 7/01/2004; Revised: 7/07/2005; 3/11/2010