

**SCHOOL REQUESTS OF PAYMENT FROM STUDENTS**

A. Purpose

1. South Tech Charter Academy, Inc. acknowledges the provisions within Article IX, Sec. 1 of the Florida Constitution, which state, in relevant part, as follows:

The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty for the state to make adequate provision of the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education .....

The Governing Board affirms the state's duty to make adequate provision for this education for every student in the K-12 public school system, subject to the requirements of Florida and federal laws.

Policy 2.10 is intended to provide guidelines for interpretation of a portion of this constitutional provision and the relevant laws. Policy 2.10 neither adds nor removes the obligation that adequate provision is made by law to provide a uniform system of free public schools, but merely provides guidance for implementation, enforcement and compliance therewith.

2. No fee or charge may be required of any student as a condition of attendance and participation for credit in any class unless authorized under § 228.061, Fla. Stat., or any other federal or state statutes. The Academy President or Management Company Representative is permitted to request, as set forth in § A-5 herein, students voluntarily purchase certain items or voluntarily pay to participate in an activity, which may aid in their learning. If a custodial parent/guardian does not make a voluntary payment to purchase a particular item, consumable or otherwise, or does not pay for an activity, and if the item is used and/or the activity is maintained, South Tech Charter Academy, Inc. shall provide this item or activity without cost to the student of that custodial parent/guardian, or may choose to forgo use of the item or engaging in the activity as part of the instructional program. The Academy is required to provide technical and other resources at the school center for student use.
3. The basic supplies students need to complete work, such as paper, pens, pencils, notebooks, and rulers, are the responsibility of the parent or guardian and are not subject to the limitations of this policy.
4. There are items or activities that may be part of the regular curriculum of the school or courses where students may be requested, as set forth in § A-5 herein, to pay fees based upon associated costs. This policy identifies these costs, which may be requested of a student, as set forth in § A-5 herein, and are an addition to those otherwise allowed by law, if any.
5. *Any request for money from a student shall be in writing, addressed to the student's parent or legal guardian, and shall clearly state: (a) no penalty of any type will be imposed against the student based upon a failure to pay; (b) no student will be denied the right to participate for failure to pay; (c) the principal may forgo a planned activity or use of a particular item based upon the collection of insufficient funds to cover the cost of the item or activity; and (d) this request is for a voluntary payment.* This notice shall also be provided in the Academy's or students' handbooks, or addendum thereto, which is published and distributed to all students at the beginning of each school year.
6. The Academy President or Management Company Representative, Principal, assistant principals and teachers shall be notified of this policy.
7. This policy does not apply to the purchase of uniforms by students attending enrolled in programs requiring uniforms or particular clothing for attendance.

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B. Acceptable Requests for Payments

1. Students may be requested to pay the costs of materials used for a take-home project. Such charges must be based on the actual cost of the materials and are subject to § A-5 herein.
2. In physical education class, students may be to shower after physical activity. A student may purchase towel service and a physical class uniform if provided by the school. The student may bring a towel or appropriate clothing from home for the physical education class.
3. If the school sells items, payment may be requested from students only for personal items. Administrators must exercise caution to determine personal items from those that are clearly the responsibility of the school to provide.
4. Field trips, both off-school grounds and in-school field trips are intended to enrich the educational experience of students and shall be related to the curriculum. The Academy is permitted to request, subject to § A-5 herein, direct payments from students for field trip activity occurring during school hours. If a custodial parent/guardian does not pay for the field trip, the student shall not be denied the opportunity to participate, and the school shall arrange for the student to attend without payment, provided other prerequisites (such as parental permission) have been met. The President or Management Company Representative may forgo a planned field trip based on insufficient payments to cover the cost of the field trip.
5. When students are given reading assignments not included in the textbooks, or other materials provided for all students use, adequate copies of these supplemental books and materials, and/or adequate technological equipment shall be available for use or loan in the school center or some other reasonably accessible location. Certain individual projects (such as book reports and term papers) may require use of reading materials available at a public library.
  - a. The Academy may, subject to § A-5 herein, offer to sell students books for the reading assignments. Purchase of these materials, is an option and shall not be required in order for a student to complete an assignment.
  - b. Charges for these materials shall be based on cost to the Academy.
  - c. These books/materials may be made available to students for purchase at school, i.e. book fairs.
6. Students who choose to complete an enhanced project, which costs more than the minimum cost of a class project, may be charged the cost of the additional materials. The choice of an enhanced or regular class project will not result in a higher grade for the student choosing an enhanced project.
7. Cap and gown sales/rentals are appropriate, although no student shall be denied an opportunity to participate in graduation ceremonies by virtue of inability to pay for cap and gown sales/rentals.
8. Students may be requested to pay fees for the cost of rental and cleaning of uniforms needed for extracurricular programs occurring outside of regular school hours.
9. If a student loses or damages School property, including library books and textbooks loaned to said student, said student shall be required to pay for, replace or repair said Academy property.
10. Students may be charged a modest fee for library books returned late.

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11. As applicable, the Academy may furnish either a book locker and/or a physical education locker for each student. The Academy has the right to require that only locks in a master series of locks, which can be opened by the school's master key, be used on these lockers. The student should have the opportunity to purchase or rent such locks at the school's cost.
12. School parking fees may be charged

C. Voluntary and Extracurricular Activities

1. Extracurricular activities are not considered a part of this policy, and costs associated with these activities may be charged to the student.
2. The Academy may charge students costs associated with activities occurring outside of school hours. Student participation is optional. There can be no penalty if the student does not participate, nor may a student be rewarded with extra credit for participation.
3. Students may be requested to pay for items and admission tickets for events outside of school hours, including athletic events, concerts, and theater productions. Attendance at these events is optional. Any student who attends shall not receive extra credit, nor shall the student who does not attend be penalized.

Authority: §§ 230.22(2), 230.23(22), 230.23005(2)(e), Fla. Stat.

Implemented: §§ 230.22, 230.23, 228.061, 230.03(2), Fla. Stat.; Fla. Const. Art. 9 § 1

Reference: Palm Beach School district Policy 2.21

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