



September 23, 2014

Dear Franklin Academy Families:

As you are aware, our School's Charter, in accord with Florida Statutes, sets forth a parent service hour requirement that our families must complete in order for their children to maintain enrollment at Franklin Academy. It is important to remember that your children's education spans far beyond the classroom and you as parents have a duty to help mold your children into the members of the community they will become.

Here, at Franklin Academy – Pembroke Pines, along with all of our sister schools, parental involvement is key to your children's success as students inside and outside the classroom. By performing service hours at our facility and showing your child that you are present at school, your child senses a commitment and dedication to their education far beyond what you can envision.

With that in mind, General Counsel for the Florida Department of Education has issued a memorandum opinion which Franklin Academy has steadfastly adopted. In that opinion the Florida Department of Education states, that a "donation option to satisfy all or part of the volunteer hours would no longer meet the requirements . . ." of the Florida Statutes and the intent of the "parental involvement" language in the law.

Based on the above, this communication is being sent to remind and reiterate to our families the importance of your involvement in your child's education, being visible here at school for the minimum hours required throughout the year and to provide you with an understanding as to why we cannot accept a donation to satisfy the minimum service hour requirement.

We understand that this may affect many of our families relying on the ability to satisfy the service hour requirement through donations. Please keep in mind that we must work within the parameters established by the Florida Department of Education.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to the continued success of your children here at Franklin Academy and beyond.

Sincerely,

Elena Diaz, M.Ed.
Principal