The Knox County Board of Education established a regional Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) school, the L&N STEM Academy (hereinafter “the Academy”) in 2011. The Academy began as a high-quality, rigorous, stand-alone Knox County magnet school focused on the STEM disciplines and particularly on the use of technology as a learning tool. The Academy is not a comprehensive high school, and does not offer all educational services to all students. Rather, the Academy endeavors to provide opportunities not otherwise available to Knox County students and students from outside the district as provided for in this policy.

The Academy is a regional school designed to provide students from the East Tennessee region access to courses that will prepare them for work or study following graduation and offer opportunities not otherwise available to students from small, rural districts due to funding constraints, staff limitations, scheduling constraints, and distance from higher education institutions. As such, the Academy has no defined zone and enrolls both students from within the district as well as a limited number of students from outside the district.

The Academy shall accept Out-of-District student transfers pursuant to a procedure developed by the Director of Schools that will determine the number of students from outside Knox County to be admitted to the Academy for each school year not to exceed 10% of any entering class, and the allocation of the number of students that each nearby county (note: not individual districts) may send. Transfers will be granted based on L&N STEM Academy program capacity. The procedure will also provide for a lottery system to determine Out-of-District student transfers in the event that the Academy receives more applications for placement from Out-of-District than it has allotted seats. The decisions of the Knox County Schools shall be final. The admission of students will be limited by the ability of the Academy to provide appropriate educational services to the student. For purposes of determining whether the Academy is able to provide appropriate educational services to the student, students from outside Knox County will be evaluated on the same basis as students from within Knox County.

When a transfer has been granted and accepted, it does not have to be renewed each subsequent year.

The Academy principal may make a recommendation for a revocation of a transfer for any student not meeting the Code of Conduct in accordance with the Knox County School Board policies. However, the Director of Schools, with consultation from the Supervisor of Enrollment, is the only person who may revoke an approved transfer.

Students accepted into the Academy from out of County will not be charged tuition, so long as state and local basic education program (BEP) school funds shall also follow the student into Knox County pursuant to the provisions of State Law. Knox County is authorized to enter into an agreement with a sending LEA whereby additional funds may be transferred from the sending LEA to Knox County for the...
purposes of educating the student, to the extent permitted by law. 3 Furthermore, nothing in this policy shall preclude Knox County from entering into a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement with a sending LEA regarding the admission of students from the sending LEA 4 apart from the provisions of this policy, thought the admission of such students may be limited by the total number of students to be admitted from any county, as set out above.

All Students attending the Academy shall be subject to all policies, procedures and practices of the Knox County Board of Education.

Out-of-District students with an approved transfer will be afforded the same transportation opportunities within Knox County as county residents attending the Academy with pick-ups at the nearest Knox County high school or at existing pick-up points.

Legal References:

1. Public Chapter 0882; July 1, 2016.
2. Id.; T.C.A. § 49-6-3104(g).
3. Id.
4. Public Chapter 0882; T.C.A. § 49-6-3104(a).

Approved as to Legal Form
By Knox County Law Director 6/1/2016
/Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director