**Category III: Online Virtual School**

The second option to consider for home school is the Category III Online Virtual School model. Parents or legal guardians may also enroll their child in an accredited online school. Parents or legal guardians choosing this educational option must be sure to determine that the school has legitimate accreditation status and will be required to provide evidence to Knox County Schools that their child is enrolled in an accredited online school.

To be an acceptable online school for students who reside in Tennessee, the school must be accredited by one of the regional accrediting agencies listed below:

● AdvancED

● SACS CASI: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement

● NCA CASI: North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement

● NWAC: Northwest Accreditation Commission

● Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)

● MSCES: Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools

● MSCSS: Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools

● New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

● Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

● National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and affiliates (e.g., SAIS)

● National Council of Private School Accreditation (NCPSA)

The chart below is a partial list of Category III Online Virtual Schools for your convenience. Please check the websites of these schools to determine if they are still accredited by one of the associations listed on the previous page. Accreditation status may change in between updates to this handbook. It is ultimately the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to determine if their child is attending an accredited online school. The Home School Office will be happy to assist if needed.





