

<u>Section J:</u> Students	Knox County Board of Education Policy			
	Out-of-District Student Transfer to the Regional STEM Academy	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
			J-154	7/16
			Reviewed:	Revised:
	10/23	12/23		

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2 The Knox County Board of Education established a regional Science, Technology, Engineering and
3 Mathematics (STEM) school, the L&N STEM Academy (hereinafter “the Academy”) in 2011. The
4 Academy began as a high-quality, rigorous, stand-alone Knox County magnet school focused on the
5 STEM disciplines and particularly on the use of technology as a learning tool. The Academy is not a
6 comprehensive high school, and does not offer all educational services to all students. Rather, the
7 Academy endeavors to provide opportunities not otherwise available to Knox County students and
8 students from outside the district as provided for in this policy.
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10 The Academy is a regional school designed to provide students from the East Tennessee region access to
11 courses that will prepare them for work or study following graduation and offer opportunities not
12 otherwise available to students from small, rural districts due to funding constraints, staff limitations,
13 scheduling constraints, and distance from higher education institutions. As such, the Academy has no
14 defined zone and enrolls both students from within the district as well as a limited number of students
15 from outside the district.
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17 The Academy shall accept Out-of-District student transfers pursuant to a procedure developed by the
18 Director of Schools that will determine the number of students from outside Knox County to be admitted
19 to the Academy for each school year not to exceed 10% of any entering class, and the allocation of the
20 number of students that each nearby county (note: not individual districts) may send. Transfers will be
21 granted based on L&N STEM Academy program capacity. The procedure will also provide for a lottery
22 system to determine Out-of-District student transfers in the event that the Academy receives more
23 applications for placement from Out-of-District than it has allotted seats. The decisions of the Knox
24 County Schools shall be final. The admission of students will be limited by the ability of the Academy
25 to provide appropriate educational services to the student. For purposes of determining whether the
26 Academy is able to provide appropriate educational services to the student, students from outside Knox
27 County will be evaluated on the same basis as students from within Knox County.
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29 When a transfer has been granted and accepted, it does not have to be renewed each subsequent year.
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31 The Academy principal may make a recommendation for a revocation of a transfer for any student not
32 meeting the Code of Conduct in accordance with the Knox County School Board policies. However, the
33 Director of Schools, with consultation from the Supervisor of Enrollment, is the only person who may
34 revoke an approved transfer.
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36 Students accepted into the Academy from out of County will not be charged tuition, so long as state and
37 local school funds shall also follow the student into Knox County pursuant to the provisions of State
38 Law.² Knox County is authorized to enter into an agreement with a sending LEA whereby additional
39 funds may be transferred from the sending LEA to Knox County for the purposes of educating the student,
40 to the extent permitted by law.³ Furthermore, nothing in this policy shall preclude Knox County from

1 entering into a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement with a sending LEA regarding the
2 admission of students from the sending LEA⁴ apart from the provisions of this policy, though the
3 admission of such students may be limited by the total number of students to be admitted from any county,
4 as set out above.

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

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

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Legal References:

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

46 Approved as to Legal Form
47 By Knox County Law Director 10/6/2023
48 /Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director
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