



## **Frequently Asked Questions about CMCSS College and Career Academies**

### ***What is the difference between an Academy program of study and the traditional [CTE programs of study](#) offered across the district?***

Students enrolled in any CTE program of study (traditional or Academy) will spend class time exploring a specific career field and will have opportunities to participate in hands-on learning experiences related to various jobs within that field. Most CTE pathways will allow students to earn industry certifications, meet local employers, and/or visit related businesses within the community during one or more of courses throughout high school. Listed below are a few differences between an Academy program of study and a traditional program of study:

- Students in traditional programs of study will typically take courses over 3 years of high school and may not start in a pathway until their sophomore year; students in Academy programs of study will be required to take courses over all 4 years of high school and will start in their pathway as a freshman.
- Academy classes are cohorted and cross curricular. This means that Academy students will solve problems or complete activities in math, science, social studies, and English classes that relate to the career theme of their Academy. Traditional CTE coursework stands alone from other academic classes.
- Typically, only students who are zoned to attend the school where a traditional pathway is offered can enroll in it. However, Academy pathways do allow students from across the district to apply for enrollment. There are only 75 seats available in each Academy cohort. Fifty of those seats are reserved for zoned students and 25 of those seats are open to enrollment by students from other schools.

### ***Is the Academy for college preparation only?***

The Academy supports career and college-ready experiences. Integrated experiences within each Academy will foster the critical thinking skills necessary for future success.

### ***Who can apply for an Academy?***

Any zoned CMCSS student who is registering for high school in the spring semester of their 8th grade year or any out of zone 8<sup>th</sup> grade student with documentation stating he or she already lives in a CMCSS zoned area or will be moving in zone for the following school year is eligible to apply for an Academy.

### ***How does a student apply for an Academy?***

Attendance at an Academy information session is highly recommended. These sessions will include an overview of all Academy pathways, and there will be opportunities to interact with teachers and students from each Academy following the overview. Middle school counselors will share dates and locations for these meetings with students in early January. Interested students must submit applications [online](#) through the Academy website by the deadline noted.



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### ***What is the application criterion for Academies?***

The application criterion for an Academy is purely based on student interest. However, due to the mathematical demands of the standards in the Computer Information Technology Academy (CITA) at Northeast High School and the Engineering and Design Academy at Kenwood High School, students applying to CITA or the Engineering and Design Academy should have demonstrated strong mathematical skills in 8<sup>th</sup> grade to be successful.

### ***Once a student has applied, what process is followed for selection?***

Each Academy<sup>1</sup> has a maximum capacity of 75 students; 50 seats are reserved for the zoned feeder school and the remaining 25 seats are reserved for out of zone applicants. If an Academy has more than 75 applicants, a lottery will be held to determine the selection of students. Students and parents will be notified of their selection status within three weeks of the application window closing and orientation/registration sessions for the Academy counselor will begin soon after.

### ***If a student is not selected for the Academy will he or she still have a chance to attend?***

Each Academy will maintain a waitlist through the start of each school year. If other students who were selected choose not to register, the Academy will contact students on the waitlist.

### ***What is the withdrawal policy if a student changes his or her mind about attending the Academy?***

It is critical that a student who applies for an Academy does so based on his or her interest in the career theme of the Academy. The only time a student can withdraw from an Academy is at the end of a semester. If a student withdraws from an Academy, he or she must return to his or her zoned high school. Once enrolled in an Academy, student grades, attendance, and behavior will play a factor in continued enrollment.

### ***What if a student is admitted to the Academy but decides he or she no longer wants to take the Academy pathway classes?***

If students are attending the Academy out of zone, they must be enrolled in Academy pathway classes to remain at the school of choice. If the student, at the end of a semester, decides to enroll in classes that are not aligned with the Academy pathway, he or she will be withdrawn from the Academy and asked to return to his or her zoned high school.

### ***If a student decides to withdraw from an Academy, will his or her graduation status be affected?***

Each student must earn a minimum of 3 credits in the specific Focused Elective Group he or she has chosen. Since elective courses and programs vary from school to school, a student may not be able to complete his original focused elective requirements when changing schools. In such

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<sup>1</sup> The Academy of Teaching and Learning at West Creek High School has a maximum capacity of 25 students. 19 seats are reserved for the zoned feeder schools, and the remaining 6 seats are reserved for out-of-zone applicants.



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instances, the student would be asked to select a new Focused Elective Group and would be required to complete 3 credits from that new group.

### ***If a student didn't belong to an Academy as a freshman, can he or she apply to an Academy as a sophomore?***

The cohort design of classes for cross-curricular projects will not allow for students to join the Academies after their freshman year. Each school does have a variety of traditional CTE pathways available to students in their sophomore year.

### ***If a student decides to withdraw from an Academy, will that affect his or her ability to compete in sports?***

Once a student has been accepted to an Academy, he or she is now considered a member of that school. If a student chooses to practice or play on a school sports team and then leave the Academy, the student should speak with the Athletic Director about eligibility rules for transfer students before withdrawing, as he or she must follow the existing transfer or hardship policies established by the TSSAA. See the [TSSAA website](#) for further clarification.

### ***What transportation options are available if a student chooses an Academy not offered at his/her zoned school?***

Parents are responsible for transportation to the Academy if it is located outside of the student's zoned school. In an effort to provide limited, sustainable transportation options, we have established bus transportation partnerships as follows: students may travel between:

- KHS and WCHS
- MCHS and CHS
- NEHS and RHS
- WCHS and NWHS
- NWHS and KHS
- NEHS and KIHS
- KIHS and RHS

If interested in the partnered bus transportation option, a parent or guardian would request transportation during the Academy application process.

### ***How will a student's schedule be affected if he or she opts to utilize the out-of-zone bus transportation?***

Due to the timing of bus transportation for students attending out of zone Academies, students riding the bus back to their zoned school cannot attend a full 7<sup>th</sup> period class. Because students only need to earn 22 credit hours to complete their high school diploma, a six-period schedule will suffice for graduation requirements. However, most college admission requirements expect more than 22 credits. As a result, students utilizing out-of-zone bus transportation should confer with their school counselor about the option to complete online courses. When completing the out-of-zone registration form during registration, please review the online options with the Academy counselor.



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### ***If a student is currently homeschooled or attending a private school in Clarksville, can he or she apply to a CMCSS Academy?***

A student who is not currently enrolled in a CMCSS school, but lives in Clarksville may complete an application for joining an Academy. If an unenrolled student is offered a seat in an Academy, that student would need to complete the [registration process](#) for the fall semester in the appropriate high school to secure their Academy seat. This process should be completed as soon as possible after accepting the invitation to join the Academy.

### ***If a student is a military dependent currently living outside of Clarksville with orders to be stationed in Clarksville for the coming school year, can he or she apply to a CMCSS Academy?***

A student who is a military dependent living out of zone can apply to a CMCSS Academy if he or she submits, with the application, official documentation stating that the student's parent will be making a PCS move to Ft. Campbell.

### ***Can a student who wishes to attend school through CMCSS K-12 Virtual apply for an Academy?***

Due to the hands-on nature of the coursework, the cohorted model, and the cross-curricular projects that are part of the Academy experience, students wishing to join an Academy must do so in the traditional school setting and will not be accepted into an Academy if they plan to attend school through CMCSS K-12 Virtual.