To request an accommodation, please contact your building principal or department head. (Interpreters for the deaf or hard of hearing must be requested forty-eight [48] hours prior to the event.) Questions or concerns may be referred to the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Customer Service Center, 615/259-4636.

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High school education in Nashville has changed. The Metropolitan Nashville Public School district has taken up the national challenge, moving to provide students with more of the advanced skills they need to be successful, productive citizens in college, career and life. We call it the Academies of Nashville, but our students call it “I Can...”

Our Academies allow students to choose a thematic course of study, such as engineering, health care, or International Baccalaureate, and learn in a relevant, hands-on environment with real-world application. Our students learn Math, Science, English, and Social Studies in the context of their Academy theme.

While Academies differ for each school, they all fall within five broad themes:

- Arts, Media & Communications
- Business, Marketing & Information Technology
- Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Technology
- Health & Public Services
- Hospitality & Tourism

**RELATIONSHIPS**

**So What’s the Difference?**

- Academies offer the smaller, personalized environment of a small school
- Academies offer applied learning opportunities of themed magnet schools
- Academies are zoned schools and offer free transportation to zoned students
- Academies partner with businesses to solve real-world problems for authentic learning
- Academies focus on the 21st Century Skills students need for success in college and life
- Academies provide a culture of teamwork, critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity
- Academies give students a choice among many different themes
- Academies provide rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum
- Academies prepare students for college and career

“I can run my own company and I’m not old enough to apply for a business license.”

*Hunters Lane High School Student*
RIGOR
So What’s the Difference?

- Graduation requirements are aligned with college entrance requirements
- Opportunities for International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) courses
- Opportunities for early college credit

“I can build a website and I haven’t even been to college.” Overton High School Student

RELEVANCE
So What’s the Difference?

- Students connect their learning to the real-world
- Students develop a capstone project in their field of interest, which can include a student internship, work-based learning, service learning or a research project
- The goal of the Academies is for every high school graduate to have a plan for post-secondary education and career
- At least a 21 composite score on the ACT
- A work based experience, service learning, or capstone research project
- At least one course completed online for high school and/or college credit
- College credit and/or a nationally-recognized professional certification

Who Are Metro Nashville High Schools Students?

- Approximately 87,000 students
- 46% Economically Disadvantaged
- Diverse Student Population
- 12 neighborhood high schools (16,000 students/1,000 teachers)
- Students represent more than 140 countries and speak nearly as many languages
“I can learn and teach other people the law of Tennessee and I haven’t even graduated from high school.” Hillwood High School Student

ENGAGES THE COMMUNITY

- The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce identifies community resources
- PENCIL partnerships link community resources and volunteers with the Academies
- Alignment Nashville’s High School Committee and several sub-committees systematically issue invitations to community and business partners to support the Academies
- Additional community partners help activate engagement between the school system and the business and non-profit community

FOCUSED

BUSINESS PARTNERS SUSTAIN CHANGE

- **CEO Champions**- Committee of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce that supports the reform effort through advocacy in policy and the community
- **Partnership Councils**- Industry-specific councils convened by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce that provide a district-wide perspective of their industry and Academies
- **Academy Advisory Board**- Composed of an Academy’s partners and stakeholders
- **Academy Partners**- Individual businesses or organizations that work with an Academy during a school year through the PENCIL Foundation

“Together we are helping students see the connections between academic skills and professional behavior and how they will use them in the real world.” Lynne Maynor, Gaylord Opryland, McGavock High School The US Community Credit Union Academy of Business and Finance/Gaylord Opryland Academy of Hospitality
DOES IT WORK?

YES

- Increase in graduation rates at every neighborhood high school
- Decrease in discipline referrals
- Increase in participation in advanced academics
- Increase in achievement scores
- Increase in ACT scores

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- Thousands of people from dozens of school districts are visiting Nashville to learn about the Academies of Nashville
- Established as a Ford Next Generation Learning Community
- Nationally accredited Academies with designations of Model Academies by the National Career Academy Coalition
- Middle Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub
- National business partner recognition
- National educator recognition

“I can take accurate vital signs on patients and I don’t even have a driving permit.”

Hillsboro High School Student

“...for my daughter to come here from Robertson County and take advantage of the STEM Academy with the advantages it would give her to go to college and go into the medical profession. We’re very happy about the move. She’s very happy with the things she is learning. Some of them are gross, some of them are funny, but they all tie in to help her become the professional she wants to be.”

TRANSFORMING TEACHING & LEARNING

- Project-Based Learning
- Student Internships
- Accelerated learning options — Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge AICE and College Credit
- Virtual/online learning
- Professional development, blended learning, ACT Prep, highly effective learning

SUCCESS
HOW DOES IT WORK?
Using the Ford PAS Model, the Academies of Nashville impact student achievement by:
- Redesigning High Schools
- Freshmen Academies
- Academies with a thematic focus for grades 10-12
- Teacher teams with common planning time
- Academy Assistant Principals, Academy Coaches, Academy Counselors
- Academy offerings informed by career projections and college opportunities
- 10 National Standards of Practice for Academies
- Transforming the learning space

SUSTAINING CHANGE THROUGH BUSINESS & CIVIC LEADERSHIP
- Align schools with colleges, universities, technical schools, and apprenticeship programs
- Establish articulation agreements and dual credit
- Curriculum enrichment through externships, student work-based learning, and executives in the classroom
- More than 350 signed business partners