



## **Springs Public Schools Tennessee- Empower Academy Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: What is Springs Public Schools Tennessee- Empower Academy?**

A: Empower Academy is the first locally approved public charter school in Rutherford County. It is a specialized educational program within Springs Public Schools that focuses on empowering students with the skills and knowledge necessary for academic success and personal growth. Empower Academy is open to all, tuition-free, and focuses on personalized learning with Montessori principles.

### **Q: Who is eligible to attend Empower Academy?**

A: Empower Academy will open for the 2024-25 school year with kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. After year one, the Academy will add additional grades up to 8<sup>th</sup>. Any student within Rutherford County is eligible to enroll in Empower Academy.

### **Q: When will the Empower Academy be ready for students?**

A: Our team is working on opening our doors to students in the Fall of 2024 in Smyrna, TN.

### **Q: Where will the school be located?**

A: Empower Academy will be in Smyrna, TN. The team is in the process of purchasing a 10-acre property off of Enon Springs Road in the town of Smyrna, close to Old Nashville Highway. A final location in the Smyrna area for the inaugural year is still being confirmed at this time and our team is diligently working to finalize. Once a location is confirmed, families will be notified, and a final number of seats and exact grade level offerings will be made available. We thank you in advance for your understanding and shared excitement for this new choice in education in Rutherford County!

**Q: Will Empower Academy offer transportation to students?**

A: Families will need to provide their own transportation to school. To the greatest extent possible, Empower Academy will also support families wishing to carpool with other families to help with transportation.

**Q: What is the application process for Empower Academy?**

A: The application process for Empower Academy involves completing an application form through the [Rutherford County School District website](#) and submitting necessary documents such as birth certificate, proof of residency, and immunization records. Open enrollment will begin December 1, 2023 and will close on January 31, 2024.

**Q: Does Empower Academy incorporate state standards into its curriculum?**

A: Yes, Empower Academy incorporates state standards into its curriculum. Empower Academy aims to provide a comprehensive education that aligns with the educational requirements and standards set by the state of Tennessee. By adhering to state standards, Empower Academy ensures that students receive an education that meets or exceeds the prescribed learning objectives and expectations outlined by the Tennessee Department of Education. Our personalized learning plans allow our teachers the flexibility to adjust teaching standards for each student.

**Q: What subjects and courses are offered at Empower Academy?**

A: Empower Academy offers a comprehensive individualized learning through Montessori-inspired teaching practices that include core subjects such as English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Specific course offerings may vary based on grade level or student and parent interests. Empower Academy is striving to bring a public charter school that reflects the extracurricular activities the community wishes to see for their students.

**Q: Are there any specialized programs or services at Empower Academy?**

A: Yes, Empower Academy provides a variety of specialized programs and services to support student growth. The Academy aims to provide a well-rounded education tailored to each student's unique needs. Parents and students will be asked for feedback and input into the creation of additional specialized programs, athletics, the arts, and more.

**Q: What are the class sizes at Empower Academy?**

A: Empower Academy strives to maintain smaller class sizes to facilitate personalized attention and a conducive learning environment. The specific class sizes may vary depending on the grade level and overall enrollment. Empower Academy also offers access to teacher assistants in each

classroom. Each classroom will have a credentialed teacher, and a scheduled teacher assistant to allow for smaller groups and one-on-one lessons.

**Q: How can parents get involved in Empower Academy?**

A: Parents are encouraged to actively engage in their child's education. We strive to meet with our parents often in regard to their students' personalized learning pathway. The teachers ask to meet with the parents at least three times a year to plan and monitor progress. Parents can volunteer for school activities, and most importantly collaborate with teachers and staff to support their child's academic journey.

Prior to opening of the school, parents and community members can get involved through parent action teams. These parent- led teams will be empowered to help share the opportunity for enrollment with the community and help with fundraising and community activities.

**Q: What resources are available for students with special needs at Empower Academy?**

A: Empower Academy is committed to providing an inclusive education and support for students with special needs. The school offers various resources such as individualized education plans (IEPs), accommodations, and specialized instruction to ensure that every student has equal academic and social opportunities.

**Q: How can I contact Empower Academy for more information?**

A: To obtain more information about Empower Academy, you can reach out to the school administration at 615-237-7170. We are happy to assist you with any questions or inquiries you may have.