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Smyrna Empower Academy Partners with Smyrna Boys & Girls Club to Serve Students and Families

The new public charter school will operate school out of the Smyrna Boys & Girls Club facility

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – [Smyrna Empower Academy](#), a K-5 tuition-free public charter school focused on individualized learning, announced a partnership with the [Boys & Girls Club of Rutherford County Smyrna Club](#) to operate its school out of the facility opening in the fall of 2024.

The Smyrna Boys & Girls Club operates an afterschool program in its facility during the traditional school year. During regular school hours, the facility is unoccupied, providing a perfect opportunity for Smyrna Empower Academy to use the facility while construction at its site on Enon Springs Road continues. In October 2023, the Town of Smyrna Planning and Zoning Commission approved the building and site design for Smyrna Empower Academy's [new facility on Enon Springs Road](#).

"Our long-term goal remains to build and open our school on Enon Springs Road," said Smyrna Empower Academy executive director Jared McLeod. "However, due to construction and financing delays, it was apparent to our team we needed to find an alternative location to begin serving students in the fall of 2024. We see this partnership with the Smyrna Boys & Girls Club as a win-win solution. We will begin serving students and families in the fall of 2024, which has been our primary goal, while also partnering with an outstanding community leader in the Boys & Girls Club."

Smyrna Empower Academy will have 10 classrooms serving approximately 250 students in grades K-5 at the Smyrna Boys & Girls Club location. With a combination of existing classrooms plus temporary walls to divide larger spaces, the layout will provide flexible learning environments with hands-on, interest-driven, project-based learning for all students.

"The Smyrna Empower Academy team is ecstatic over the opportunity to provide such a wonderful school environment at the Smyrna Boys & Girls Club," said Smyrna Empower Academy principal Shane Wickwire. "Not only will the interior provide the classroom space we need to serve our students in a personalized atmosphere, but it will also provide the playgrounds and extra-curricular space for healthy minds and bodies."

In addition to serving as the school site for Smyrna Empower Academy, the Smyrna Boys & Girls Club will also serve as the afterschool program for students and families that need that additional care option. "We heard from many parents during our parent interest meetings that afterschool care is a real need," McLeod said. "We are happy this partnership provides a solution."

“We are excited about this partnership,” said Boys & Girls Club of Rutherford County chief executive officer Sheryl Chestnutt. “Not only is it a great use of our space, students may become Club members, and it helps us fulfill our mission. Like Springs Empower Academy, we invest in young people and strive to have a lasting impact in their lives.”

Families who completed the Rutherford Choice open enrollment process or were selected through the lottery have been notified of their enrollment status and are encouraged to accept their seat through the application portal. Springs Empower Academy will continue to accept applications for a waitlist if additional spots become available. A [parent interest meeting](#) will be held on February 9, 2024, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Smyrna Boys & Girls Club, and there will be a virtual parent meeting on February 15, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. to share more details on the upcoming school year.

To learn more about Springs Charter Schools and Empower Academy, visit [Springspstn.org](https://springspstn.org).

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ABOUT SPRINGS EMPOWER ACADEMY

Springs Empower Academy is a tuition-free, public school of choice serving kindergarten- 5th-grade students coming to Rutherford County in the fall of 2024. It is guided by the ideals of authentic hands-on, meaningful activities, teacher-facilitated self-directed learning, and Montessori principles. To learn more and to join our email list, visit <https://springspstn.org/>. Connect with Empower Academy on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @SpringsPublicSchoolsTN.