

## The Community

Athens is the largest city in McMinn County, with a population of 14,150 (Estimate 2008), and serves as the centrally located county seat. The city was incorporated in 1903. It's known locally as "The Friendly City." Athens is located 57 miles north of Chattanooga and 57 miles south of Knoxville along I-75 in the beautiful Tennessee Valley.

Athens is a region filled with natural beauty, a strong economy and a high quality of life. Nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, Athens offers a southern hospitality that grew during the years in which it was a small agricultural center. Over the years, Athens has grown industrially but has been able to maintain the attitude that gained it the nickname of "The Friendly City."

The people of Athens pride themselves on having the best of all possible worlds, beautiful natural settings, a growing business and industry climate and a solid emphasis on quality of life.

The People of Athens are a very friendly and working group who participate in a healthy labor climate. There is a spirit of friendliness and cooperation which few places possess. The blend of the old and the new here also adds to the uniqueness of Athens.

For more specific information on Athens City please visit <http://www.athenschamber.org/>

## The Application Process

Qualified candidates wishing to be considered for this position must submit the following items to the Tennessee School Boards Association office by June 15, 2010. The packet, in an unbound format, must contain:

1. A formal letter of interest
2. A current resume and vita sheet, including accomplishments by position
3. A copy of the candidate's Tennessee or other state's license and certifications
4. University transcripts
5. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of five (5) professional references.

A screening committee will review candidates' qualifications, match those qualifications against the Board's stated criteria, and make recommendations to the Board. After receiving the report of the screening committee, the Board will select candidates to interview. Tennessee's Open Meetings Law requires interviews to be conducted in meetings open to the public.

Send applications to:

Tennessee School Boards Association  
**Attn: Athens City Schools DOS Search**  
525 Brick Church Park Drive  
Nashville, TN 37207  
615-815-3910

# ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS

is seeking a Director of  
Schools

**The mission of the Athens City School System, in partnership with the community, is to provide opportunities for all students to develop intellectually, socially, physically and morally in order to live as a contributing member of an ever changing, multi-cultural society.**

### Board of Education Members

Mike Bevins, Chairman  
Chris Adams  
Brian Heatherly  
Chris Liner  
Jim Nelson  
Harold Powers

## The Position

The Athens City Board of Education is seeking an experienced, highly qualified and visionary leader as its next Director of Schools. The person chosen by the Board will assume the Director's role, effective August 1, 2010.

The Director of Schools will serve as chief executive officer of Athens City Schools and will be responsible for carrying out all school board policies and supervising the operations of the school system. Minimum qualifications include: A professional educator's license; a doctorate degree in education or be accepted in an approved program leading to a doctor's degree; with a major in Educational Administration and Supervision and a minor in a related field; three (3) years of successful experience in school administration; or five (5) years experience as a Director of Schools. Salary will be negotiated after consideration of professional background and experience. Candidates will be evaluated in accordance with their individual qualities as well as professional accomplishments with an emphasis on the following criteria.

## The Selection Criteria

The following criteria, adopted by the Board, were derived from interviews with School Board members, various groups of School Board employees, students, elected officials, business leaders and parent organization leaders. This candidate should:

- Have a record of significant accomplishments in current position a strong curriculum background and previous successful experience as a teacher and principal.
- Exhibit successful experience as a central office administrator who can determine the effectiveness and efficiency of school personnel programs.

## The Selection Criteria, *continued*

- Possess strong financial skills with a proven ability to manage a school system and to select and employ a competent staff.
- Makes decisions based upon what is best for the student instead of political influence or pressure.
- Possess and use strong, effective oral communication, including a sense of humor, and skills needed in advocating for public education.
- Demonstrate the ability to work effectively with diverse student populations, including multicultural groups within the system and in the broader community.
- Build support, confidence and pride within the community for the system; keep the community informed about and involved with the schools to encourage and foster public support of the system.
- Possess ability to unify diverse groups and build and maintain high morale among employees, listening carefully to individual and community concerns and involving people in decisions which affect them.

## The District

The Athens City School System is operated by the city Board of Education. The school system has a total enrollment of 1647 students and a budget of 16.7 million dollars. The city allocates 45 percent of all sales taxes collected in the city to the school system and shares in paying for the school system indebtedness which was a result of a 6.3 million dollar renovation project.

Athens operates one pre-school, four elementary level schools, and a junior high school. The schools include Athens Junior High School, which instructs grades seven, eight and nine. Ingleside Elementary School has students in grades K-3. City Park Elementary School has students in grades K-3. North City Elementary School has students in grades 4-6. Westside Elementary School has students in grades 4-6. The Four Star Academy Pre-K program serves the pre-school children of the community.

Extensive renovations were completed at all sites in 2006.

Five schools and the Central Office are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

For more information about Athens City Schools, go to <http://www.athenscityschools.net/>

## System Facts

**Grades served:** Pre-K through 9

**Student population:** 1,647

**Teachers:** 119

**Budget:** \$16.7 million

**Funding:** 34.9% Local, 51.1% State, 14.0% Federal