



# Burlington County Alternative School

*Proud to be a National School of Character*  
Burlington County Special Services School District  
1020 Briggs Road, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054 Phone: (609) 261-5600 x2501



## We provide:

- Intervention programs
- Family-like atmosphere with frequent communication with parents
- Positive behavioral support
- One-on-one mentoring
- Small class environment
- Individualized instruction
- Access to individual and group counseling
- Vocational counseling and opportunity for work study
- Experiential learning through student-driven projects and educational field trips
- Opportunity for volunteer service
- Access to college facilities and RCBC courses
- Assistance with college placement
- Focus on social-emotional learning

## We serve students:

- in need of credit recovery
- experiencing social anxiety
- who are General Education/Special Education
- with medical/attendance issues
- in foster homes
- ELL Students
- on long-term homebound instruction
- seniors in danger of failing



BCAS is a proficiency-based program for students who experience difficulty achieving their potential at their traditional schools. We are pleased to announce the Burlington County Alternative School has relocated to a brand new facility located at 1020 Briggs Road on the Mt. Laurel campus of Rowan College at Burlington County.

The Burlington County Special Services School District administration has worked hard on this important and complex project. Thanks to the support of the BCSSSD/BCIT Board of Education and the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders, our BCAS students have access to state-of-the-art facilities.



**Rowan College**  
at  
**BURLINGTON COUNTY**

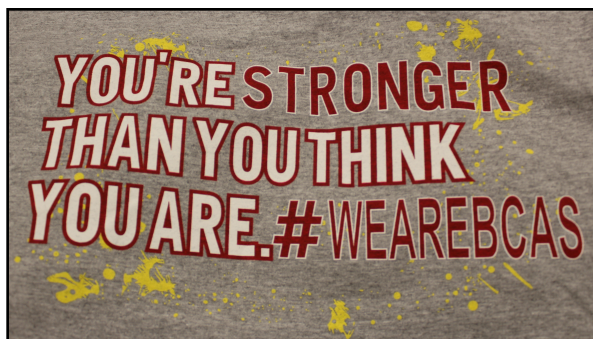
The partnership between RCBC and BCAS has been strengthened and our students are eligible to enroll in college courses at no cost. Students are able to earn credit towards their high school diploma and their associate's degree.

Students at BCAS meet or exceed state and local graduation/promotion requirements through highly individualized programs provided by state certified teachers and college instructors. Instruction encourages experiential learning and student-driven projects.

Credits are awarded as proficiencies are demonstrated, rather than on the basis of performing satisfactorily over an arbitrary period of time. In addition to the academic component, students are provided opportunities for individual and group counseling, as well as vocational training and counseling.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General Program Questions:



### BCAS Mission:

The mission of BCAS is to challenge, instruct, and guide students to develop their academic, social, and emotional abilities.

**Achieve** academically through self-initiated projects, experiential learning activities and creative expression within an individualized and proficiency-based curriculum;

**Build** resiliency by strengthening mental and emotional health and interpersonal skills within an accepting and supportive school environment; and

**Contribute** to our school family and to apply these skills to everyday life by becoming self-sufficient, well-adjusted, socially-responsible members of society.

**What is the typical BCAS student like?** *Our students have experienced significant challenges in their home schools for various reasons. Students may have difficulties with their academics, medical issues, mental health, social, or behavioral issues. Our students benefit from the support we provide in a smaller program setting.*

**What do students like best about BCAS?** *Our students enjoy working at their own pace. Students will be given extra time in challenging subject areas when necessary. Also, if a student misses school he/she doesn't fall behind.*

*BCAS staff get to know each student on a personal level. Many students will say they feel important, recognized and understood here. The small classroom and school design provides a family-like learning atmosphere.*

**Will I earn a high school diploma?** *Yes, you will earn a high school diploma issued by your sending school.*

**How does graduation/promotion work?** *You are invited to participate in your home school's graduation and you are invited to the BCAS graduation. Some students choose to attend both.*

**What will I miss out on while attending BCAS?** *Students can still participate in after-school activities at their home school, including extra-curricular activities and special events such as proms and graduation activities.*



# Burlington County Alternative School FAQs

## Questions about Academics:

**What are the field trips like?** BCAS places tremendous value on getting out and seeing the world. We offer approximately two trips per month; trips relate to a lesson or project from school. Students earn credits by attending trips and completing the class meetings and/or follow-up work involved. Examples of our trips involve: Washington DC, Philadelphia, NYC, museums, playhouses, landmarks, etc. We also offer outdoor activities such as backpacking, camping, and rock climbing. All trips are optional.

**Is it true that high school students can accelerate and/or graduate early?** Yes, but that is entirely up to the student. Motivation, performance, and individual progress will determine how quickly the student will move along. Many of our students do accelerate in their courses.

**How will I know how I'm doing in school?** Students receive a report every Monday to track their progress. Also, parents and guardians are contacted by our staff weekly to provide updates. The focus is always to support student goals and help keep students on track.

**Is there extra help available?** Yes, during regular school hours there is always an opportunity to receive extra help from teachers. Our teachers provide one-on-one and small group instruction. Counselors can also help with goal setting and time management.

**Is it true I can take college courses for high school credit?** Yes, some BCAS students enroll in college coursework through Rowan College at Burlington County (formerly BCC) and attend class right here on the Mt. Laurel campus as part of their regular school day. Students must apply for this opportunity and will be evaluated based on their performance at BCAS (attendance, academic progress, behavior, etc.). Additionally, students must acquire their home district's approval.

## Questions about the counseling support:

**How often will I see my counselor?** Counselors will check-in with students every other week. Students may request to see their counselor as needed.

**What types of things can my counselor help me with?** Anything. If a student's counselor cannot help, they will find someone who can. All conversations are kept confidential (exception: if someone's life is in danger).

**What is the reason behind the group counseling?** Group counseling is where students learn about important life topics, discuss relevant issues, share ideas, and learn about one another. Students get to choose their group and credits are earned through participation.





# Burlington County Alternative School Application Process

By following the instructions on this page, you will assist the staff of the Burlington County Alternative School in assessing applications and servicing students as expeditiously as possible.

## Student Essay:

The directions to the student are clear. It is imperative that the student completes the essay without any outside assistance. This essay is treated as an indicator of the student's academic ability in addition to providing them an opportunity to reflect on their current situation.

## What happens to a student's relationship with their home school district?

Students must be registered in their home school district. The home school district continues to collect state aid in the student's name, and uses this money to defray the BCAS tuition expense, which is significantly less than comparable programs. The home school district is responsible for providing transportation to BCAS. Students are eligible to participate in all home school district activities, such as dances, sports and graduation ceremonies as long as they remain a student in good standing according to their home school district requirements.

## School Responsibilities:

**Application for Admission:** Please legibly and accurately complete all parts of the application. Incomplete applications delay the intake process.

**Narrative Statement:** The professional most familiar with the student should complete this part of the application.

**Checklist of Specific Behaviors:** Please complete as suggested in directions at the top of checklist.

**Pertinent Records:** Please attach a complete and current transcript, along with any other academic, disciplinary and health records. If the student is classified as a special needs student, please include a complete and current IEP (including a complete psychological, social and learning evaluation) and/or any details pertaining to PL 504 accommodations.

**BCAS Transcript Form:** In addition to a copy of the student's current updated transcript, please complete this form to specify which of the student's home school district graduation requirements have been completed and which ones remain unfulfilled. It is often difficult for us to determine from the course titles listed on transcripts which requirements are being satisfied. Accurate completion of this form assists us in preparing a plan for the student.



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