



Burlington County Alternative School



We provide:

- Intervention programs
- Family-like atmosphere with frequent communication with parents
- Positive behavioral support
- Small class environment
- Individualized instruction and coursework
- 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 service learning
- Access to college facilities and RCBC courses
- Assistance with college placement
- Focus on social-emotional learning

We serve students:

- in need of credit recovery
- who were challenged by remote and hybrid learning
- experiencing social anxiety/school refusal
- who are General Education/Special Education
- with medical/attendance issues
- in foster/group homes
- ELL Students
- on long-term homebound instruction
- seniors in danger of failing
- in need of a social or academic restart



Burlington County Alternative School (BCAS) is a proficiency-based program for students who experience difficulty achieving their potential at their traditional schools.

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.

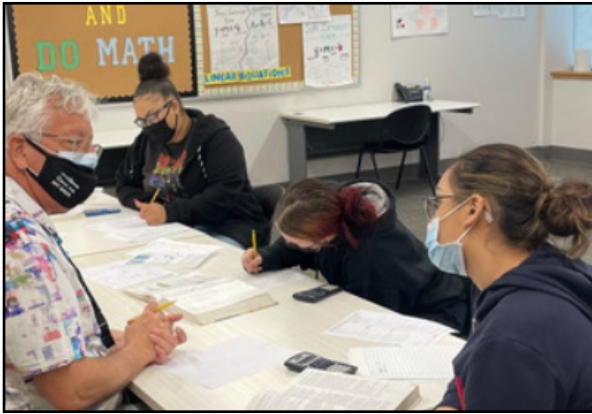
Credits are awarded as proficiencies are demonstrated, rather than on the basis of performing satisfactorily over an arbitrary period of time. In addition to the academic component, students are provided opportunities for individual and group counseling, as well as vocational training and counseling.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



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 toward their high school diploma and their associate's degree. Each June, RCBC awards two students with scholarships for post-secondary expenses. The Burlington County Special Services Educational Foundation supports students with college-related expenses by offering scholarships as well.

Burlington County Alternative School FAQs



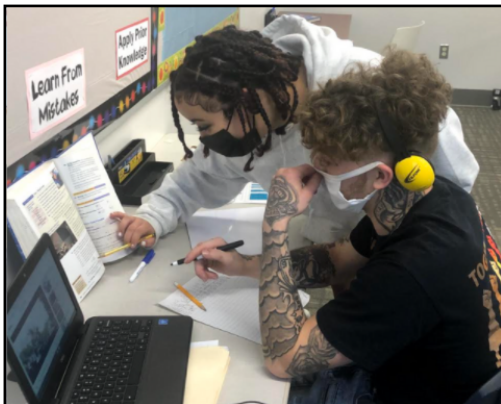
BCAS Mission:

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.



Frequently Asked Questions

General Program Questions:

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.*

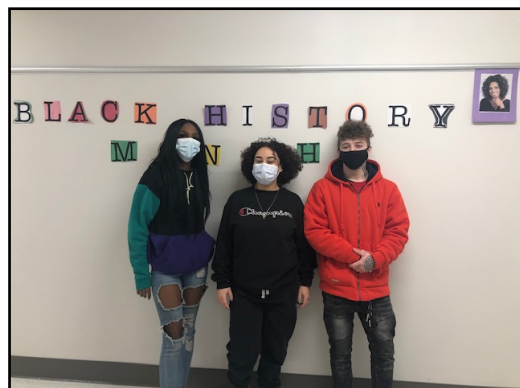
BCAS staff get to know each student on a personal level. Many students will say they feel important, recognized and understood here. The small classroom and school design provides a family-like learning atmosphere.

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.*

**Students with significant disciplinary or attendance issues might not be permitted to participate in school 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.

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.

What about the student's home school district?

What happens to the 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.



Burlington County Alternative School

Healing Centered Engagement: A Focus on Wellness Post-Pandemic and Beyond

BCAS has a renewed focus on Body, Mind, and Spirit.



Body

- Updated Individual Program Plan (IPP) that now includes wellness goals and objectives
- Certified nutritionist on campus
- Menu has been revamped to include more fresh fruits and vegetables
- School Wellness Room complete with a variety of cardio and weight training options
- Experiential Learning Opportunities that focus on fitness, team building, and building cultural capital
- Electives focused on complete wellness. Course offerings include: Nutrition, Healthy Lifestyles, Yoga, and Mindfulness



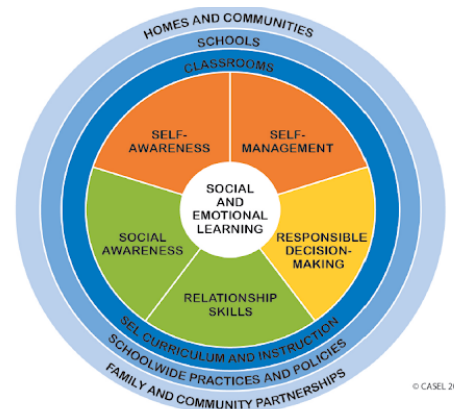
Mind

- Expansion of our partnership with RCBC with book purchasing assistance from the BCSSSD Educational Foundation for students in need
- Culturally diverse Young Adult Library
- One of our ELA teachers is a published author
- NCAA Course Endorsement
- Work Study Offerings
- 1:1 Chromebooks for all new students
- Staff are Google Certified & utilize Google Classroom for all coursework
- BCIT Adult Education Career Exploration Pilot Program



Spirit

- National and State School of Character
- Creation of a Zen Den
- Access to Therapy Dogs
- Service Learning Partnerships
- Partnership with outside organizations to provide support with Art Therapy, Music Therapy, and Restorative Practices



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