



BURLINGTON COUNTY ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

(05-0605-011)

Grades Offered: 06-12

2017-2018

Report Key:

* Data is not displayed in order to protect student privacy




** Accountability calculations require 20 or more students

N No Data is available to display

† This indicates a table specific note, see note below table

School Narrative

This section allows schools and districts to share highlights, achievements, and other important information about programs, activities, and services that are offered in their own words. If there are questions about the information provided in the narrative section, please contact your school directly.

 <p>Highlights:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCAS continues to be recognized as both a National and State School of Character. This designation signifies that best practices in character education are being utilized at BCAS. • BCAS has invested in expanding classroom libraries. The classrooms are full of engaging young adult literature. Promethean Boards are going to be ordered for the direct instruction classrooms. • BCAS staff completed training on becoming a trauma informed school along with non-suicidal self-injurious behavior.
 <p>Mission, Vision, Theme:</p>	<p>The mission of the Burlington County Alternative School is to enable each student to reach his/her full potential through academic, vocational, and therapeutic programs adapted to a student's unique needs and abilities. BCAS functions as a community school where each member is valued. Students often state that BCAS is an extension of their family. Students and staff develop strong bonds that last throughout the years.</p>
 <p>Awards, Recognition, Accomplishments:</p>	<p>National School of Character designation, State School of Character Designation</p>



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Courses, Curriculum, Instruction:

Students who attend the Burlington County Alternative School are awarded diplomas from their home school. Therefore, BCAS students are enrolled in courses that are required by their sending schools. BCAS has an updated collection of textbooks from all subject areas and a large selection of novels. The students also have access to various online resources. Due to a strong relationship with Rowan College at Burlington County, BCAS students are permitted to enroll in college courses for dual credit.



Sports and Athletics:

Students enrolled at BCAS may participate in sports and athletics at their home/sending schools.



Clubs and Activities:

Students may return to their sending schools for extra-curricular activities, clubs and sports. During the academic day students participate in a variety of elective/group courses. Topics include but are not limited to Titans (Student Government), LGBT Group, Japanese Culture, Awkward History, Art, Technology, Healthy Choices, Novel Club and Math Club. BCAS also supports service learning and most students participate in some type of volunteer service such as mentoring, tutoring, teacher assistant, cafeteria assistant etc.



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Before and After School Programs:

BCAS operates a PM Program that occurs after the regular school day. This program is typically for juniors and seniors who are in need of one-on-one instruction in order to complete their degree requirements.



Staff and Professional Learning:

There are nine certified teachers at BCAS. Currently, three are working on advanced degrees. The staff at BCAS meets as a team once in the morning for 20 minutes and once in the afternoon for 40 minutes. During this time student progress and action plans are discussed and created. Staff members have common planning/prep time each day in order to collaborate. All staff complete district trainings via NJ SAFE SCHOOLS and participate in professional learning communities. BCAS is continuing work on becoming a trauma informed school.



Postsecondary Information:

Students who graduate from BCAS enroll in four-year universities, two-year colleges, enlist in the military, attend trade schools or enter the workforce. Approximately, 65 percent of the students enroll in a college or university. Approximately, 35 percent enter the workforce, 10 percent enroll in a trade or vocational school. A minimal percentage enlist in the United States military or armed forces.



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Student Supports and Services:

BCAS employees four full time counselors to support students. The students have free access to counselors and are required to participate in group counseling. There are two teachers certified in special education to support students who have individualized education plans. Due to the structure and very small class size many of the modifications listed in individual education plans are satisfied.



Student Health and Wellness:

All students at BCAS are enrolled in Health and Physical Education courses. The PE period is 45 minutes in length. The students enjoy activities such as four square, basketball, soccer, hockey, football, yoga, and other team building games. Also, the students have access to a quarter mile walking path that may be used for daily exercise.



Parent and Community Involvement:

There is a variety of parental involvement at BCAS. All students are assigned a "family head." All family heads meet with students daily to discuss daily goals and accomplishments. Family heads also call home once a week to discuss student progress. Additionally, parents and guardians are invited into school twice a year to share a meal with students and BCAS staff. BCSSSD utilizes Genesis, which has a Parent Portal option that allows parents to check on credits earned, grades, and attendance. Parent/guardian information sessions are also conducted at school to cover a variety of relevant topics such as financial aid and the college application process.



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 <p>Climate Surveys:</p>	<p>Is a Climate Survey Used: Yes; Who is surveyed: Students, Parents, Administrators, Teachers</p> <p>The climate survey is administered to BCAS students, staff, and parents twice a year. BCAS just concluded a three year agreement with the New Jersey Department of Education's School Climate Transformation Project facilitated by Rutgers University. The SCTP allowed BCAS to create SMART goals to make school improvements in the area of climate and culture. The climate survey is the tool that was used for data collection.</p>
 <p>Facilities:</p>	<p>The Burlington County Alternative School opened a new facility in January of 2017 located in Mount Laurel. The new building includes 9 classrooms, a state of the art computer lab, a designated science lab, a multi-purpose room, cafeteria, student lounge, nursing suite, and 8 offices.</p>
 <p>School Safety:</p>	<p>The safety and security of students and staff is a top priority at BCAS. All visitors are required to sign-in using the kiosk located near the front office. At the start of each day, all students are scanned using a handheld electronic monitoring device. Additionally, all bags and purses are searched. BCAS contracts with Yondr, a company that creates phone free spaces. During the entire day students do not have access to their cellular devices. BCAS works cooperatively with the Mount Laurel Police Department when the need arises.</p>



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Technology and
STEM:

Students at BCAS have access to a new science lab. Promethean Boards were added to the middle school and high school direct instruction classrooms. There are ample desktops and Chrome Books available for student/class use. There is a large computer lab designated for student/class use as well. The science teacher regularly offers STEAM classes for all students.



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Other Information:

Burlington County Alternative School, located on the Mt. Laurel campus of Burlington County College in the Briggs Road Center, is a proficiency-based program for students who have experienced difficulty achieving their potential at their traditional high school and middle school. Students at BCAS meet and exceed state and local graduation requirements through highly individualized programs provided by state certified teachers and/or 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.