



THE BEAUFORT COUNTY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations! In applying for the Beaufort County Early College High School, you are taking an important first step on the road to a college degree. We at BCECHS are committed to providing the most comprehensive educational preparation possible for the students in Beaufort County. If you are accepted, you will find this to be one of the most important experiences of your life.

Before you begin completing the online application, please read the *General Information for Students and Parents* pages very carefully. You will note that BCECHS is not like other schools: there are things we do VERY differently than other schools; you will need to understand and accept them before deciding to apply.

The Beaufort County Early College will conduct an informational open house at 5:30 p.m. on **Thursday, January 30, 2025**, in the multipurpose room of building 10 on the BCCC campus. This session is for eighth grade students and their parents who are seeking information about the Early College and the application process.

The online application must be submitted by February 7, 2025.

Students who are accepted will be notified by mail by February 14, 2025.



THE BEAUFORT COUNTY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

General Information for Students and Parents

Eligibility

Students may only apply during their 8th grade year. The student's legal guardian **must** be a resident of Beaufort County to apply to the BCECHS.

Academic Calendar

Our school year is a mixture of the Beaufort County Community College calendar and the Beaufort County Schools calendar. Our starting and ending dates are different from other schools in the county. Our holidays and other breaks may also be different. BCECHS students must agree to follow our calendar and be in class when our classes are in session, even when other students in the family or the neighborhood are not in school.

Acceptance Notification and Mandatory Orientation Session

All students who are accepted for enrollment will be notified by February 14, 2025. All accepted students and at least one parent/guardian must attend a mandatory orientation session at BCCC.

School Day

Regular school hours are 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Some students may take college classes earlier than 8:30 a.m. or later than 2:30 p.m. if they can provide their own transportation.

Transportation

BCECHS students who need transportation will ride the regular school bus to the high school closest to their home in the mornings and transfer to a BCECHS shuttle bus for the ride to BCCC. In the afternoon, BCECHS students will ride a shuttle bus to the high school closest to their home and transfer to the regular school bus for the trip home. On days when BCECHS is in session, but other schools are closed, BCS busses will pick students up at their home bus stop in the mornings.

Meals

BCECHS will participate in the federal school lunch program. Students may also bring lunch and snacks from home.

Discipline

BCECHS students are expected to always conduct themselves as responsible young adults both on campus and while involved in any off-campus school-related activity. Infractions may result in serious consequences, including possible suspension or expulsion. Students who exhibit a pattern of minor behavioral issues, or who begin to miss classes or refuse to participate in class activities and assignments are also subject to disciplinary action. Repeated offenses will cause a student to be removed from BCECHS permanently. Parents are notified of all serious disciplinary actions.

Extracurricular Activities

BCECHS **will not offer** sports, band, choir, or ROTC, but we encourage the formation of student clubs. If you are interested or involved in such activities, you need to strongly consider whether you want to give them up to be a BCECHS student.

Personal Maturity and Responsibility

We will operate as a blended educational experience, although college procedures are our standard way of operating. Students are accepted in BCECHS with the understanding that they will adopt and exhibit a serious attitude towards their classes, their learning, and their academic preparation for college and the workplace. For that reason, BCECHS students must assume a much greater level of personal responsibility for themselves, their safety, and the results of their decisions than other high school students are expected to demonstrate. Parents must support and encourage this as well. This high level of expectations is mandatory, especially where the next several items are concerned.

Campus Movement: Monitoring and Supervision

The BCCC campus is a very busy college campus with people always coming and going all day. BCECHS students must move around campus from class to class and elsewhere as needed. During extended schedule breaks, mealtimes, and occasional cancelled classes, students are generally free to move around campus on their own. We have specific places set aside where our students are expected to be when not otherwise assigned, and we will, of course, exercise reasonable levels of supervision and oversight within the limits of our

available staff and time. Because every student will eventually have a unique and individual schedule, however, and must therefore come and go around campus at different times to and from different buildings and classrooms, specific continuous monitoring and supervision of all students is impossible.

Parents must understand this and must agree to hold their own children, not the BCECHS/BCCC staff or administration, responsible for the student's comings-and-goings around and on-and-off campus, and for their choices of who they associate with, including who they accept rides from.

Parents must complete the required paperwork provided by the school for students who drive to come and go on- and off-campus on their own. All students are required to check out if they leave campus before the end of the day, but we cannot always contact parents prior to releasing them.

PARENTS MUST AGREE THAT BCECHS, THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS, AND THEIR AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENTS' WHEREABOUTS OR SAFETY WHEN THEY ARE NOT SCHEDULED IN A CLASS OR SCHOOL ACTIVITY, OR WHEN THEY CHOOSE TO LEAVE CAMPUS AT A TIME OTHER THAN DESIGNATED BY BCECHS.

Resource and Internet Access

Access to information resources at BCCC, including the Library and the Internet, is not filtered, or blocked like it is in the public schools. BCECHS students are required to make occasional use of these resources to fulfill course requirements, so they will come in contact from time to time with material that would have been screened, censored, or filtered if they were in a public high school. BCECHS students will be required to sign the BCCC Acceptable Use Policy.

PARENTS MUST AGREE TO ALLOW STUDENTS FULL AND COMPLETE ACCESS TO THE LIBRARY, THE INTERNET, AND ALL OTHER INFORMATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT BCCC WITH NO EXPECTATION OF BLOCKING, FILTERING, SCREENING, OR CENSORING OF ANY KIND.

Idea Exchange

BCECHS is part of a college. On college and university campuses, the free exchange of ideas is mandatory and expected. Censorship of ideas or opinions is not allowed or supported. For that reason, BCECHS parents must understand that their children who come here will be exposed to, and will be expected to participate in, open exchanges of ideas, discussions, debates, and even class assignments concerning every possible kind of subject matter – including religion, politics, human sexuality issues, etc. – that may well be different from the ideas and teachings they and their parents are used to and believe. This free flow of ideas and discussions occurs at every level, including both high school and college classrooms and throughout the college environment. Every effort is made to enforce civility, reasonable restraint, courtesy, and tolerance of all ideas, beliefs, and viewpoints, but you must know in advance that every BCECHS student will almost assuredly have his or her values and beliefs challenged at various times while enrolled in this program, and all students and parents must accept that and understand – and agree – that the school cannot, and will not, take any measures to censor ideas or opinions not in line with students' beliefs just because discussion or challenge makes the student and/or his/her parents uncomfortable.

Attendance

BCECHS students will follow the BCS attendance policy for BCS taught classes and the BCCC attendance policy for BCCC taught classes. Regular attendance is essential to success at BCECHS. As a result, students are expected to attend every class every day. If absences do occur, students are responsible for work missed and are to be prepared for course work when they return. It is the student's responsibility to contact the faculty for missed assignments to meet these expectations. Problems with attendance may result in dismissal from BCECHS.

Coursework and Graduation Requirements

The sequence of the curriculum and the content of the curriculum at BCECHS is different than the other high schools in the school system. This difference allows students at BCECHS to complete both their high school diploma and their Associates degree in five years. To accomplish this, students at BCECHS will be dual enrolled in many courses. Dual enrollment allows them to receive a high school graduation credit and a community college credit for the same course. While the students at BCECHS will be academically prepared for dual enrollment, the courses will be challenging. Students and parents should examine the courses and the sequence of courses at the BCS website. This is essential to the decision of whether BCECHS is an appropriate choice. The requirements for graduation from BCECHS include both high school and college coursework. Please note graduation depends upon meeting both sets of requirements in full. Students who complete the high school requirements but not the BCCC requirements will not graduate; likewise, students who complete the BCCC requirements but not the high school requirements will not earn either the college transfer credit or associate degree. Full completion of both sets of requirements is required for both high school diploma and college degree.

Virtual Public School classes will be available to students to meet credit requirements; however, a student will not substitute a VPS class for any class that is taught by an Early College High School teacher.

Parent Involvement

BCECHS students need the support of their parents and families. Parents of BCECHS students must be actively involved in their students' education and fully engaged in school events and activities. At least one parent per family is required to join us at each of the following:

- Open House – one evening before classes begin.
- Parent Conferences – as scheduled.

Important note: No student can be successful in this program without active involvement and support of his or her parents (or adult guardians). For that reason, we respectfully insist that parents fulfill their obligations to keep their children enrolled at BCECHS. Students whose parents fail to attend mandatory Open House and/or Parent Meetings or remain inaccessible to school staff, may be dropped from BCECHS enrollment and be required to transfer to a different high school.

Inclement Weather Procedures

BCECHS closes when BCS closes due to inclement weather. Watch the TV news and listen to the radio in such cases; all BCS closings for weather will be announced just as other institutions are announced.

Now the next step is up to you - you know basically what to expect. Do not apply if you cannot handle all these expectations. But if you think you can do it, and you want to go to college and desire the first two years provided free, then Beaufort County Early College High School is the best option to make it happen. We wish you the best of luck, and we look forward to receiving your application for the 2025 freshman class!

REMINDER

**YOUR COMPLETED ONLINE APPLICATION IS DUE BY FEBRUARY 7, 2025. DO NOT
LOSE YOUR CHANCE TO COME TO BCECHS BECAUSE YOU WERE LATE TURNING IN YOUR APPLICATION!**