



## Burlington County Institute of Technology

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October 6, 2023

Dear BCIT Families,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are excited to share some important news that will benefit our entire BCIT community. Recently, Burlington County Institute of Technology (BCIT) was awarded a significant federal grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

This grant is a tremendous opportunity for us to enhance the well-being of our students. In light of the challenges many students have faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have recognized the need for expanded mental health support within our BCIT community. This grant will play a pivotal role in enhancing the services and care available to our students and their families.

The SAMHSA grant will primarily fund school-based mental health care and services, which will be available to our students and their families. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive range of services that will address the unique needs of our community. Here's what you can expect:

- 1. Direct Mental Health Support:** We have partnered with a local organization to offer direct mental health support to students and their families. We are excited to announce our collaboration with Creative Change Counseling, Inc., aimed at providing students with one-on-one emotional support. These services have been thoughtfully crafted to offer students short-term guidance, counseling, and coping strategies to assist them in overcoming any challenges they may encounter. If any students wish to utilize these services, the school counselor will initiate the referral process and then reach out to inform you. Following this, the Creative Change Counselor will assess the situation and get in touch with you to discuss the next steps.
- 2. Cultural Competency Training:** Our staff will undergo cultural competency training to ensure that we can better understand and serve the diverse needs of our student body. This training will enable us to create a more inclusive and supportive environment. We partnered with TESO Consulting Group to provide the support to promote fairness, inclusion, and belonging for all. They will use a trauma-informed approach to create a plan for these important goals and ensure everyone's involved in making BCIT a better place.

**3. Improving School Climate and Culture:** We are committed to continually enhancing the climate and culture within our schools. The grant has made it possible for TESO Consulting Group to continue to support strategies that are crucial in our ongoing efforts to cultivate a positive and nurturing environment for every student.

**4. Substance Use Prevention:** We will also use these funds to educate our students about the dangers of vaping, drug use, and alcohol consumption. We are deeply committed to empowering our students with the knowledge and tools they need to make informed choices about their health and well-being. Through our partnership with Prevention Plus, we are confident in our ability to achieve this mission. Their utmost priority is to safeguard your child's well-being by delivering educational programs that effectively prevent alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse and passionately advocate for a healthier lifestyle.

As the school year progresses, you will receive more detailed information about the specific resources and services that will be available to students and families through this federal grant. The best part is that these services will be provided at no cost to families, ensuring accessibility for all.

We are genuinely excited about this opportunity to provide additional support for our students and families. We firmly believe that these resources will make a positive and lasting impact on the well-being and success of our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for being an integral part of our BCIT community, and we look forward to working together to create a healthier, happier, and more prosperous future for our students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Christopher Nagy  
Superintendent of Schools