



## **Executive Summary**

**Atlantic Technical College & Technical High  
School**

**Broward County School District**

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Coconut Creek, FL 33063

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### Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

## **Description of the School**

**Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?**

Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School (ATC) is located in Broward County, in the city Coconut Creek. Atlantic Technical Center opened in 1973, offering 11 programs of instruction to 450 students. A full-time magnet high school was added in 2002. Over the years, four major construction phases have been added to address program expansion, community growth, and labor market demands. In 2014, the School Board of Broward County approved the name change to Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School. To serve more students in Broward County, two additional campuses were added: Atlantic Technical College Arthur Ashe, Jr. Campus in Ft. Lauderdale and the ATC ESOL Center located on the Coconut Creek High School campus. Today more than 7,200 students attend classes offered days, evenings, and Saturdays across the three campuses. Other educational services include: Applied Academics for Adult education (AAAE); English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); General Education Development (GED®) Preparation; Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services and ESE Career Placement Program; Adult Curriculum for Community, Employment and Social Skills (ACCESS); Veterans' Assistance (VA); Disability Services; and the Technical Resource/Distance Learning Center.

ATC is accredited/approved by:

Commission of the Council on Occupational Education (COE)  
7840 Roswell Road, Bldg. 300, Ste. 325, Atlanta, Georgia 30350  
(770) 396-3898 - (800) 917-2081 - FAX (770) 396-3790

AdvancED  
Alpharetta Office  
9115 Westside Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009  
(888) 413-3669 - [www.advanc-ed.org](http://www.advanc-ed.org)

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN)  
3343 Peachtree Rd. NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, Georgia 30326  
(404) 975-5000 - FAX (404) 975-5020 - Web Site: [www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org)

American Culinary Federation Education Foundation (ACFEF)  
Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES)  
Bureau of State Approving Veterans' Training (VA)  
Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)  
Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA)  
Florida State Board of Nursing  
Florida State Department of Education (FLDOE)  
Inter - Industry Conference on Auto Collision (I-CAR)  
National Association of Orthopaedic Technologists  
National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF)  
National Court Reporters Association (NCRA)

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### National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF)

Our quest is to provide the finest career and technical training in the nation. ATC is considered an anchor along the Coconut Creek Education Corridor which includes the Dave Thomas Education Center, Coconut Creek High School, and Broward College.

As part of the larger Atlantic Technical College, the Technical High School is preparing our students to be college and career ready through rigorous academic skills with a high-demand occupational field concentration. The school design is based on the philosophy of Coalition of Essential Schools and High Schools That Work, two nationally recognized educational reform models of excellence that promote high intellectual goals for all students, personalized teaching and learning, and a hands-on active approach to learning and achievement.

The Technical High School serves students in grades 9 through 12 and has a maximum capacity of 600 students, 150 in each grade. Although located in Coconut Creek, Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School serve communities in Broward County, north of Sunrise Boulevard. Our student population draws from fourteen high schools and twenty-five zip codes and represents the diversity of these communities. The student body is composed of 41% white, 45% black, 3% Indian, 6% Asian and 5% Multiracial. Thirty percent of our students identify as Ethnically Hispanic and are evenly split between males and females. Sixty-nine percent of our students qualify for the federally sponsored Free/Reduced Lunch Program and 12% are classified as Exceptional Student Education and receive services through an individualized educational plan. In Broward County Public schools, the student population is composed of 51% white, 41% black, 4% Asian, 1% Native American, and 3% Multiracial with 32% identifying as Ethnically Hispanic. The personalization of our highly qualified faculty, many with advanced degrees and National Board Certification, work diligently with our diverse socioeconomic student population, assuring academic and technical rigor is evident. Our students are supported by two full time certified school counselors, a media specialist, testing coordinator, magnet coordinator and BRACE advisor.

Atlantic Technical High school is a unique public, technical high school north of Sunrise Boulevard, delivering rigorous, academic education and technical instruction that are essential for successful, emerging careers. Students pursue one of twenty-six technical programs of study across seven Career Clusters: Architecture and Construction; Business Management and Administration; Health Science; Hospitality and Tourism, Information Technology; Manufacturing; and Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics. As a magnet school, students wishing to attend must follow the District application process and meet eligibility requirements. Incoming 9th grade applicants must: reside north of Sunrise Boulevard; have a 2.0 unweighted grade point average in their English, Math, Social Studies, and Science classes; meet minimum level 3 on the Florida Standards Assessment in reading and mathematics as determined by their 7th grade scores or recent norm referenced standardized tests with a minimum scores in the 50th percentiles. Magnet school applications are submitted during the application window, December 1st through mid-February, to be eligible for the District random selection process.

Serving a vast community is not without challenges. All ATC students who reside more than two miles from Atlantic Technical High School are provided transportation and arranging appropriately timed transportation is accomplished by District personnel. Since we are not a boundary neighborhood school, we offer many clubs and activities to involve our students in extra-curricular activities. Student after school commitments in activities and tutoring are strong with the availability of two buses that shuttle our students after school hours to depot stops throughout the county. Additionally we strive to develop relevant curriculum and academic relationships even though our students come to us from multiple of public, charter, or private middle schools, of which we have had no interaction.

### School's Purpose

**Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.**

ATC is an innovative career and technical college that provides a wide range of educational opportunities for adults and select secondary students in Broward County, Florida. The administration and staff are committed to empower students with the skills needed for a successful life in a complex and changing society. ATC places major emphasis on the development and implementation of high skill/high wage/high demand occupational programs that are designed to meet the current and future needs of business, industry and the communities we serve. Moreover, we recognize that each student is a unique individual with interests, abilities, potential and worth. Our commitment is to provide career counseling and quality instruction that enable students to match those interests and abilities to a rewarding career.

The objectives of Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School are to:

- offer teaching and learning of the highest quality
- provide students with occupational instruction that will enable them to secure initial employment and/or advancement
- integrate academics and technical training with critical thinking and problem solving skills
- develop the qualities and attitudes that promote successful and continuous employment
- recognize and respect diversity
- provide specialized support services for students with disabilities
- instill integrity and social responsibility
- teach job-seeking skills and assist graduates in becoming employed
- foster the value of lifelong learning and promote professional development for students and staff
- pursue partnerships with schools, businesses, agencies, and organizations
- encourage individuals to reach their highest potential

#### VISION / MISSION:

Our staff believes that career education is an integral part of the American way of life. We strive to ensure our programs are realistic and rewarding so we can prepare students to take their places as productive citizens in our society.

Vision: To change the lives of people from all backgrounds through innovative education.

Mission: The mission of Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School is to promote excellence in academic, career and technical studies in order to prepare students to enter and remain competitive in a global workforce.

#### FAB 4

ATC is proud to offer our students the Fab 4 by providing each student with the opportunity to achieve the following:

1. College Ready High School Diploma
2. Technical Program Certificate Offering Dual Enrollment Quality Points
3. Industry Certification and/or License
4. Articulated College Credit

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### ADVISORY COUNCIL

ATC maintains an active School Advisory Council (SAC) comprised of students, business representatives, parents, community leaders, and school-based personnel. Regularly scheduled meetings are held on the main campus and minutes from these meetings are available for review.

The School Advisory Council is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Evaluating the progress/benchmarks of the current School Improvement Plan
- Encouraging the involvement and input of all stakeholders
- Providing direction for focus groups (i.e.: Safety, Discipline, Technology)
- Communicating with the Office of School Performance and Accountability and Innovation Zones on school improvement issues
- Sponsoring waiver requests
- Coordinating the preparation of the annual School Improvement Plan
- Providing public information on school improvement and accountability

### ADVISORY FORUM

The School Advisory Forum serves as the primary link between the Technical High School and the community. All stakeholders are invited to participate in meetings which are scheduled and announced in advance. Relevant topics relating to high school students and the high school experience are discussed and input is provided to the district. The Chairperson is a voting member of the School Advisory Council.

### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Bi-annual meetings of the Technical Advisory committees provide expert industry support for all career and technical programs at ATC. The committees are designed to promote interaction between instructional programs and businesses and industries served by those programs. The expertise of the advisory committees is integrated by faculty to improve program content and operation and to ensure consistency with current industry standards. Committee members also assist in the evaluation of program effectiveness, program equipment needs, facility standards, job placement, program promotion, and program advocacy. Assigned staff members hold two advisory committee meetings per school year. Fall meetings are concluded by mid-December and spring meetings concluded by mid-May. Minutes of these meetings are available on the main campus and are posted in Optiview. Templates of the Advisory documents (agenda, minutes, sign-in sheets and Employer Verification) are sent to the Advisory Coordinator and the department secretaries at the beginning of each school year.

### COUNCILS/COMMITTEES

Several faculty councils/committees have been established to make recommendations and to serve in an advisory role for the technical college (i.e.: Instructional Council, Professional Development, Student Recognition, Graduation, Technology, Safety, Discipline). Staff members are encouraged to participate in these committees and the School Advisory Council. This is an essential part of ATC's accountability and shared decision making process.

ATC is committed to provide quality education for all students by encouraging academic and technical curiosity, innovation and creativity by providing rigorous academics and state of the art technical programs. The state of Florida offers two diploma designations: Scholar and Merit. Graduates from Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School's unique program will have the opportunity to earn both. ATC's program is rigorous, preparing students for college and career.

Students are scheduled for four credits in each of the academic core subjects (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies) and two years of Spanish. This college-preparatory program exceeds the requirement for the highest level of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, the Florida Academic Scholars Award. Higher level courses are available through Advanced Placement courses and academic and technical Dual Enrollment opportunities are also available. Mastery of academic and technical courses is demonstrated through Exhibitions at each grade level.

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The Block Schedule allows students to earn 4 credits each semester totaling 32 credits over 4 years. The school does not offer any other high school credits option. During 9th and 10th grades, every student takes the same set of college, career, and scholarship preparatory courses and at the end of 10th grade, each student selects a technical program.

### 9th Grade

English I Honors

Algebra I Honors (or higher level)

Biology Honors

Speech

Spanish I, II, III Honors, IV Honors or AP Spanish

Exploring Computer Science (Code.org)

Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE)

Health II/Reading for College Success (Virtual Education)

AP Human Geography

### 10th Grade

English II Honors

Geometry Honors (or higher level)

Chemistry\*

World History Honors

Spanish II, III Honors, V Honors or AP Spanish

Computer Science Principles (Code.org)

AP Computer Science A

Psychology or AP Psychology

Critical Thinking/Career Research & Decision Making

### 11th Grade

English III Honors or AP English Language

Algebra II\* (or higher level)

Physics\* or Marine Science Honors or Anatomy & Physiology Honors

US History Honors or AP US History

Technical Program I

Technical Program II

Technical Program III

Technical Program IV

### 11th Grade

English IV Honors or AP English Literature

Mathematics\*

Marine Science Honors, Physics, AP Biology, AP Physics, AP Environmental Science

AP Psychology

US Gov Honors/Econ Honors

AP Government/Econ Honors

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Technical Program V

Technical Program VI

Technical Program VII

Technical Program VIII

\* Honors option

All facets of our faculty and staff work cooperatively to support the educational achievement of each student. Our school counselors initiate parent teacher conferences and hold individual meetings with under-performing students at four and eight week intervals. The teacher led Academic Enrichment Program is after school tutoring and available twice weekly to support students.

### Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

**Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.**

Atlantic Technical High School has been an "A" rated school by the State of Florida for the last eleven years. We have been recognized as a School of Excellence and Distinction by Magnet Schools of America. In April 2014, Metis Associates, a national research and evaluation firm, conducted a comprehensive review of the magnet programs in Broward County and ATC was recognized as a high performance magnet program in the top 80%. ATC "offers multiple career technical and adult education pathways that help prepare students for immediate high wage careers or post-secondary education". Additionally, we been honored as one of thirty nationally recognized High Schools for Urban Success. With 100% 2015 graduation rate, over 50% of our students attended a four year college or university, 43% attended two year college, 1.5% postsecondary technical school, .7% enlisted in the Military, and 4.4% began a career in the work force. Our students were awarded multiple national college acceptances from Amherst, Brigham Young, Carnegie Mellon, Clemson, Cornell, Duke, Emory, Johnson and Wales, Notre Dame, Penn State, Purdue, Princeton, Tulane, University of Florida, University of Miami, University of Southern California and more. Our 2015 senior class president and salutatorian, was a Princeton University scholarship recipient and our Valedictorian and Bronze Medallion recipient for most hours earned in volunteering was accepted to Cornell University. These students represent our commitment of rigor, relevance and building relationships in every aspect of their education. This is why we are among the top 3% of the public high schools in the state, (National Center for Education Statistics, US Department of Education & Florida Department of Education, 2014) and top 5% of our nation's public high schools (U.S. News and World Report, 2015). Our students and families value this unique education, respect the faculty and staff, see their opportunities to a successful future, and feel well prepared evidenced by our "A" rating from our students, staff and parents on the District Customer Survey. Our school continually strives to improve learning and student achievement through a caring and supportive environment.

In 2015 ATC was recognized by the Washington Post as One of America's Most Challenging High Schools in America. Newsweek Magazine has identified our high school as doing an excellent job preparing our students for college while overcoming obstacles posed by students' economic disadvantages. We ranked 147 out of 500 high schools that helped low income students overcome the odds, scoring at or above average on their state assessments. We are competitive in our District with: placing 1st at 96% passing Algebra 1, end of course exams; placing 3rd passing Biology 1 for end of course exams; placing 3rd at 93% passing U.S. History exams; placing 3rd at 89% passing for 10th grade students participating in the new Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for English Language Arts; and placing 35th in the state of Florida for the FSA English Language Arts

Atlantic Technical High School's 2015 graduation rate was 100% for 134 seniors with five National Merit Scholarship winners (Finalist and Semifinalist recognition). Three African American seniors scored in the top 3% of more than 160,000 Black Americans in the 2015 National Achievement Program. We awarded 146 Postsecondary Program Completion Certificates, 221 credentials/licensures were attempted and 182 obtained, 82% pass rate. The class was awarded 2.9+ million dollars in scholarships and garnered state recognition, ranking among top 3% (105 out of 660 schools) of Florida High Schools based on U.S. Department of Education Statistics. We are nationally recognized in the top 5% of high schools and Silver Medal recipients based on U.S. News World Report. Our students experience an integration of rigor, relevance and relationships that equip them with opportunities to become successful. Our Principal, Mr. Robert Crawford stated "We take ordinary students and give them extraordinary opportunities to meet the challenges of their future."

Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School strives to improve our college readiness scores on national tests and Advanced Placement exams. All students in Broward County are given the PSAT during their tenth grade year. All eleventh grade students on free or

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reduced lunch are able to take the PSAT for free. Our school counselors organize small group score review sessions to identify strengths and areas for improvement with helpful strategies to increase student achievement. Students are encouraged to participate in the free after school college admissions assessment study courses offered by our Math and English teachers. Students are notified of upcoming registration dates for SAT and ACT throughout the year via text newsflashes, posted bulletins and daily announcements. The school counselor and BRACE advisor meet with students by grade level at the beginning of the school year and quarterly to discuss graduation and college admission requirements. The BRACE advisor collaborates with counselors and organizes a senior symposium and parent forum to discuss relevant topics related to post-secondary education, scholarships, and FAFSA requirements and provides information to students on free/reduced lunch to obtain fee waivers for college admission assessments. Since we are on a semester schedule, students who participate in an Advanced Placement course during the fall semester but not take the exam until May. To address this challenge, tutoring is available through our Academic Enrichment Program twice a week. Additionally, our administration supports additional review sessions and pays our teachers to teach them. Our AP instructors hold coordinated review sessions of the academic skills and content, through May, in order to assist students to earn passing marks on these exams. Professional development activities are developed with this goal in mind as well.

## **Additional Information**

**Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.**

ATC prides itself on our student personalization and we strive to meet their individual needs, be they academic or personal. Our staff is focused on the whole child, recognizing the many obstacles that could impact them being successful in school. Addressing these needs quickly and with a full menu of support services reduces student stress and increases academic success.

Student Leadership is fostered through learning environments which incorporate cooperative learning, grade level exhibitions, and project based learning. Atlantic Technical High School students demonstrate leadership skills through executive internships placements with: architecture, computer IT, business and law firms; restaurants and hotels; and hospitals, nursing homes, and pharmacies. Our Business Technical programs participate in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) competitions at the state and national level and our students have won many awards in the Leadership Conference with over 50 students placing 1st and 2nd in their respective business programs. For 2015, our BPA Chapter President received the BPA State Scholarship with another senior who was recognized for an affiliate award for the National Center for Women and Information Technology Awards. The Health Occupational Students of America (HOSA) in medical programs compete respectively in their fields. The 2015 senior students won 1st place for Pharmacology, 2nd place for Dental Science and Clinical Nursing for the state competition. Our Skills USA students are consistently state and regional winners. ATC students demonstrate outstanding aptitude and professionalism that are recognized through their technical programs.

Our school has more than 30 clubs and programs that promote service and volunteerism. The Student Government is actively involved in school events and are responsible for organizing and creating team building activities for our new students at freshman orientation. This specific event fosters a welcoming atmosphere for our new incoming students. The Battle of the Books club won 1st place in the Broward County competition and our robotics team travels regionally and nationally to compete, winning state and national awards. The Mu Alpha Theta math team competed in many competitions while raising money for scholarships and the National Honor Society assists with after school tutoring. Students can participate in Key Club, First Priority, Teen Trend Setters, and Chess Club, just to name a few. Extra-curricular clubs and activities provide opportunities for all of our students to find an organization that serves while creating life-long friendships. Our Class of 2015 earned over 10,000 service hours with 36 seniors earning their silver cord (250 service hours).