

# BCAUSEICAN

# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INFO

## WHAT IS A TITLE 1 SCHOOL?

Title I, Part A (*"Title I, Part A", n.d.*) is contained in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015. Title 1 schools are schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families that receive financial assistance to ensure that all children receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps.

## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY SCHOOL?

The Community School (*"Community Schools" 2021*) is a Title 1 school in which at least 55% of the students qualify for Free Lunch. Prince George's County has 129 Community Schools. Every state has different pillars that a community school must fulfill in order to ensure that every student has access to a well-rounded curriculum and all the resources necessary to explore any and every career path. Maryland's pillars (*"What are Community Schools?", n.d.*) are (1). Expanded and Culturally Relevant Curriculum (2). Effective Teaching Practice (3). Inclusive Leadership (4). Multi-tiered System of Support (5). Family and Community Partnership and (6). Community Support Services.

That's where WE come in....

# WHAT DO WE DO AT BCAUSEICAN TO HELP?

We've been putting the T in STEM since 2015. We looked at science and coding curriculums all over the country and realized that schools in Prince George County were not getting access to those same curriculums.

In 2023, the National Science Foundation (NSF) (National Science Foundation 2024) highlighted that STEM workers with bachelor's degrees or higher have a median salary 38% greater than non-STEM workers with similar degrees. In 2021, people associated with a STEM occupation had a higher employment rate (86%) than those associated with non-STEM occupations (79%). And yet, the Pew Research Center (Fry, Kennedy, and Funk 2021) found that Black and Latin workers make up only 9% and 8% of all STEM jobs respectively. Researchers (Hurwitz and Schmitt 2020, #) found that developing digital skills starting from elementary school, beyond mere exposure to technology and the internet, was associated with positive academic performance in middle childhood. We realized how crucial it was for children and their families to learn how to effectively utilize emerging technologies as early as possible which may encourage more Black and Brown representation in STEM within universities and our future workforce. Our mission ever since has been to provide accessible tech education for ALL AGES through state of the art programs that evolve as our technological climate evolves.

Community School Coordinators (CSCs) have been reaching out to us since then to provide them with programs that fulfill 3 of the 6 pillars required of Maryland community schools. These programs include:

## EXPANDED AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT CURRICULUM

1

**BCAUSEICAN GROW:** This program provides computer coding instruction to elementary school students. GROW program participants graduate with a Certification in SCRATCH Coding—one of the leading developmental coding languages, currently taught in over 200 countries.

2

**BCAUSEICAN RISE:** This program provides computer coding instruction to middle school students. RISE program participants graduate with a Certification in PYTHON Coding—the leading coding language in the Information Technology industry, used in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity.

3

**BCAUSEICAN SOAR:** This program provides coding instruction to high school students. SOAR program participants graduate with a Certification in Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Python, or Java Coding—all highly sought after in the job market, which allows students to secure internships and jobs in the industry ahead of their counterparts.

The above programs provide students with [foundational and advanced knowledge and skills](#) in many areas of tech and coding. Students learn with challenging, culturally relevant materials that address their [learning needs and expand their experience](#). Our curriculums integrate the arts and creativity in learning exercises and provide homework assistance ensuring an enriching experience during and after school hours. Finally, we offer [English-as-a-Second Language classes as many of our programs are also available in Spanish](#) and [we have plans to expand into more languages](#).

## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

4

**BCAUSEICAN THRIVE:** This program for adults offers technology workshops classes. These classes are typically held in the evening for one hour each week. Training is customized based on need and covers topics ranging from learning how to create an email account, to more advanced training on how to use applications like Canvas, Google Classroom, Class Dojo, Google Meet, Microsoft Office, ParentVue, and Zoom.

Community schools are committed to the Whole Child Model and we, at BCAUSEICAN, are committed to enacting it. BCAUSEICAN Thrive empowers adults to learn new skills at any age and set an example for the students in their lives. When [families and educators work together, students are more engaged learners](#) who earn higher grades and enroll in more challenging classes; student attendance and grade and school completion rates improve.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

5

**BCAUSEICAN TEACH:** Due to the limited resources, we provide a highly engaging hands on full-day training to teachers and school administrators that allows professionals to incorporate STEM/Coding based language, concepts, and activities within the daily lesson plans.

Community school educators recognize that students often come to school with challenges that impact their ability to learn, explore, and develop in the classroom. Because learning does not happen in isolation, community schools provide meals, health care, mental-health counseling, and other services before, during, and after school. [Our Teach program is available to teachers and administrators from any background](#) because we believe that we need to uplift the ENTIRE community to move the collective forward.

# TESTIMONIALS

Over the past 9 years, BCAUSEICAN served more than 40 Title 1 schools, 25 of which were community schools. Keep reading to hear from some of the people who've worked with us:

I just wanted to take a moment to share how wonderful the BCIC afterschool program was for both the parents and students here at Riverdale Elementary! Everyone had such a great time, and it was clear that the students truly enjoyed the activities. The parents were equally pleased, and I must say, the staff really made a lasting impression—always punctual, professional, and so engaging. Thank you for providing such a valuable experience for our community!

**Jailine Almiraz | 2025**  
Community School Coordinator at Riverdale Elementary School

BCAUSEICAN has been a wonderful addition to the Greenbelt Middle School community. The Artificial Intelligence coding class they teach has both academic and real-world applications. Their instructors are energetic and professional. They bonded with our students immediately, creating a productive learning atmosphere. I would recommend BCAUSEICAN to any school with aggressive, inquisitive students.

BCAUSEICAN also led a ParentVue class for our parents. The class was extremely beneficial to parents needing to sign up for ParentVue AND parents who have already signed up, but needed guidance with navigation. It was refreshing to see their team connect with parents in an engaging atmosphere.

**Carlos Pugh | 2025**  
Parent Engagement Coordinator at Greenbelt Middle School

My name is Phi Thach-Seals, and I serve as the Community School Program Manager for Anne Arundel County Public Schools at Frank Hebron-Harman Elementary School (FHHES), which serves students in Pre-K through 5th grade. This is our first year as a designated Community School, and one of the top needs identified by families and staff was the addition of an afterschool enrichment program.

We chose to partner with BCAUSEICAN Inc. to offer STEM and coding opportunities—and the students absolutely love it! I've thoroughly enjoyed working with the team; they even joined us for our Cultural Arts Night, where they proudly displayed some of the students' work. I truly appreciate their partnership and look forward to continued collaboration in the years to come.

**Phi Thach-Seals | 2025**  
Community School Program Manager

We (RGMS) partnered with BCAUSEICAN, and their impact on our students was remarkable. They conducted hands-on coding workshops that were both educational and inspiring.

From the start, it was clear that BCAUSEICAN is dedicated to empowering young minds. Their knowledgeable instructors fostered a welcoming and inclusive environment, encouraging all students to participate, regardless of prior experience. The combination of creativity and technical skills ignited a new interest in technology among many students.

Thanks to BCAUSEICAN, our students left with enhanced coding abilities and increased confidence in their problem-solving skills. We are grateful for their dedication and look forward to future collaborations.

I highly recommend BCAUSEICAN to any school seeking to inspire the next generation of coders!

**Airis Freeman | 2025**  
Assistant Principal at Robert Goddard Montessori

BCauseICan staff members have worked with our RGMS students and staff for two school years. Our 2nd grade daughter enrolled in their coding for K-2 course afterschool for 10 weeks, and loved the experience! This organization opened our eyes to the wonderful possibility of young students learning to code during the early years. We look forward to enrolling her into the AI program soon. Thank you again, BCauseICan!

**Jewel B Smith | 2025**  
Parent at Robert Goddard Montessori

Help us make sure that every student succeeds by volunteering, donating, and sharing our message

Remember, BCAUSEICAN, we can, YOU can!

# REFERENCES

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