

## **25 Parent FAQs about SEA-TECH**

1. **What is SEA-TECH?**

SEA-TECH is the short name of the school that stands for Southeast Area Technical High School. This unique and innovative school provides a different option for children in both New Hanover and Pender counties. Your child's educational experience will be based on a career focus with work-based learning opportunities and industry credentialing as part of the graduation requirements.

2. **Where is SEA-TECH located?**

The school is located on the north campus of Cape Fear Community College in Castle Hayne, North Carolina and is centrally located to accommodate travel from both New Hanover and Pender counties.

3. **Who issues my child's high school diploma?**

Your child will receive their diploma from Southeast Area Technical High School (New Hanover County Schools) whether you are a New Hanover County resident or a Pender County resident. In addition to the high school diploma, your child can also receive a college level certificate, diploma or Associates of Applied Science (AAS) degree through Cape Fear Community College.

4. **How does my child get transported to SEA-TECH?**

Transportation is provided to and from SEA-TECH each day through your district attendance zone school. There is a transportation plan in place that would get your child from your home to the high school.

5. **Can my child participate in sports and extracurricular activities?**

Absolutely! We have an agreement between both school systems that your child is allowed to try out for and participate fully in any athletic program offered back at the traditional high school to which they would have been assigned. SEA-TECH will offer some extracurricular activities and clubs, but options will be limited in the beginning.

6. **Will my child be transported back to his/her home school in time for team practices?**

The tentative school day will run from 9am to 4:30pm Monday-Friday. Most junior varsity athletics at the traditional schools begin practices, travel for games and start home games prior to our regular dismissal. Your child may be dismissed early to return to their attendance zone school if they provide their own transportation.

7. **Could my child still go to college if they attended a school like SEA-TECH?**

Yes! The terms “technical or vocational school” and “college” are no longer an either/or when it comes to postsecondary education options. Every program at SEA-TECH offers some type of free college credit component. Your child can access courses through Cape Fear Community College to receive some type of industry credential, or they can work toward a program that would allow courses to be transferrable to a four year institution. This jump start on postsecondary education while still in high school can save you thousands of dollars in tuition, textbook, and other fees.

8. **How many college credits can be earned at SEA-TECH?**

The number of credits your child can earn depends on several factors. Students are expected to earn at least one credential or certificate, but it is possible to earn up to two semesters of college general education credit (in an approved AAS degree track). SEA-TECH staff will meet with your child and you to work together toward the optimal pathway for your child.

9. **Who pays for tuition, fees and books for college courses?**

All tuition, textbook costs, technology, and college fees associated with your child’s educational experiences through CFCC will be covered by the school, which will save you thousands of dollars. There may be some cost for uniforms (i.e., scrubs for cosmetology students or boots for welding students) or for the loss/damage of initial program equipment or textbooks. Consistent with NHCS and PCS policies, these costs would be the responsibility of the student or family.

10. **Does my child follow the CFCC calendar or the NHCS calendar?**

Your child will follow a New Hanover County School calendar specifically designed that includes the community college calendar. When SEA-TECH opens in the 2017-2018 school year, students at SEA-TECH and Wilmington Early College High School will follow the same or a similar calendar that parallels with CFCC.

**11. Will my child have to take night classes or classes outside of the regular school day?**

Maybe, depending on your child's educational area of interest. Some technical programs through CFCC will have options that will allow your child the flexibility of their day schedule and some will not. The individual career action plan your child creates in the freshmen year will allow for a five-year educational strategy to insure the best success of the program. Transportation is only provided to the campus by bus once daily in the morning and returned in the afternoon. Shuttle services or WAVE transit may provide additional opportunities to take classes outside the school scheduled 9:00am-4:30pm school day.

**12. If my child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan or a Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP), can they still attend SEA-TECH?**

We are a school that welcomes all types of diversity and disabilities. If a student has special needs or services, we will do the best to assist that student with accommodations. However, some students disabilities may be out of the reach of our limited staff. During the application process, we would sit down with parents and students to discuss options on making sure your child can be successful in their educational experience, whether it's at SEA-TECH or another option. CFCC offers access to disability and tutoring services. Students can advocate or find out more by visiting: [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)

**15. Can my child be removed from SEA-TECH and sent back to his/her assigned School?**

This school's enrollment policy is by open choice and application. We hope your child will want to stay for their entire educational experience at SEA-TECH. However, in the event your child is not finding success, the student may be reassigned back to their attendance zoned school. If a student/parent chooses to move back to the traditional school without the suggestion of school administration, this is possible, but a one year commitment to SEA-TECH is in place, and a student cannot transfer out until the conclusion of the academic school year.

**16. How are transfers handled with SEA-TECH?**

If your child would like to give the large, traditional high school a chance, but in the junior year feels SEA-TECH would be a better fit, there will be an option to transfer. In the 2019-2020 academic year, students will be accepted by both freshmen entrance and through transfer. An application process will still be required for transfer students.

**17. My family moved to the area after the application process closed. Can I still apply to attend SEA-TECH?**

Your child may go through the application process, but would receive a waitlisted status.

**18. Are classes at SEA-TECH taught by high school teachers or college instructors?**

Both! High school courses are taught by high school faculty employed by New Hanover County Schools, while college courses are taught by instructors employed by Cape Fear Community College.

**19. Are there visual and performing arts offered at SEA-TECH?**

Although Arts education is valuable and important to the educational experience of a child, because SEA-TECH will only have 40-60 students in the first year, we will not be able to offer art classes. Instead, we will strongly encourage involvement in extracurricular clubs or enrichment activities, whether it's through SEA-TECH, the traditional high school, or a community organization. As the school grows, more opportunities in academic courses and electives are possible.

**20. Will there be PE classes offered at SEA-TECH?**

Because of space and teacher number limitations, PE classes will be taught, but through an online format currently in use by many schools in the district.

**21. Will there a Parent Support Organization at SEA-TECH?**

YES, but it may look different from what you have been accustomed to at your previous traditional schools. Since students are coming from all across New Hanover and Pender counties, forums such as newsletters, blogs, chat rooms, and social media may be used more frequently than physical meetings. Parents will encouraged to get to know each other and organize themselves in a way that accommodates their diverse family and work situations.

**22. Will the dress code for students follow NHCS dress code or the CFCC dress Code?**

Students will follow both the New Hanover County School dress code and CFCC code. Most students will find both institutions expectations to caution on the side of safety for the student and to prevent distraction.

**23. Is there a cafeteria for students? If so, can I use the online system to put money my child's cafeteria account? Will reduced and free lunch options be available if my child qualifies?**

Dining and food services will be provided to your child just like any other school they would attend.

**24. Will there be a school nurse SEA-TECH?**

There is a part-time nurse that will be shared through Wilmington Early College High School during the first two years on the CFCC north campus.

**25. Is there a school resource officer (SRO)?**

School security and the safety of your child is very important to us. Although there will be no assigned School Resource Officer from the NHC Sheriff's office, there is a presence of CFCC campus police and security at the front entrances of each building.