

# Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School

## SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

In September of 1972, 472 eager young students from Taunton, Berkley, Bridgewater, Middleboro and Raynham entered the brand new Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School. Thirty-six years later 1200 students daily enter the still gleaming building to prepare for an exciting career in seventeen technical programs.

Bristol-Plymouth presently has a total student enrollment of approximately 1262 students in grades 9-12 and our post-secondary, one year Licensed Practical Nurse Program. Bristol-Plymouth enjoys a 100% placement rate. 37% of our students enter the business world after graduation, 19% go on to four year colleges, 35% attend junior or community colleges, 5% are enrolled in business/technical schools and 4% serve their country in one of the branches of the armed services.

Today's B-P student is a member of a technologically advanced society. Computers and advanced software technology has become the norm in households, and students are as likely to email, text message or instant message their friends. No longer is the home telephone used. Cell phones which have capabilities way beyond a conversation between friends is utilized by students on a daily basis.

The typical Bristol-Plymouth student is also immersed in today's new technology in their chosen field of study. "Mechanics" are now "Automotive Technicians" trained on the sophisticated on-board computer systems which have been incorporated into all new vehicles on the market today. Computer Numeric Control Systems enable a machinist to enter dimensions into a computer system which will then produce a product to the exact specifications. Students are introduced to and trained on computer hardware and software that make them eligible to be employed in areas that call for skilled technicians.

The community has also changed to meet the needs of advanced technology. Taunton, with a population of approximately 56,074, is the second largest city, land wise, second only to Boston. The median household income in Taunton is \$48,469. Economically, the early nineteenth century Taunton was involved in the manufacturing of cotton textiles, bricks, heavy machinery, and silver. In recent times Taunton has welcomed new and diversified business and industry to the city. The 655 acre Myles Standish Industrial Park is located off Route 495. This industrial campus has provided business space for companies needing office space, high tech manufacturing, and warehousing and distribution centers. Phase I of the park brought 65 companies and over 3700 jobs to the city of Taunton. Phase II and Phase III are complete and the park now employs 6700 people. A fourth phase is now in development. The park is growing rapidly. Outside the environs of the Industrial Park area is the company which earned the city its designation as the "Silver City", established in 1824, the world renowned Reed and Barton Silversmiths, which has continued its tradition of excellence.

Bordering Taunton on the east is the town of Raynham, with a population of approximately 13,655. At 20.75 square miles, the median household income is \$68,462. Originally part of the city of Taunton, the town is essentially a suburban bedroom community largely due to its close proximity to Routes 24, 495, 44, 138 and 104. The commercial district along Route 44 has become a haven for automobile dealerships fast food restaurants, department stores and home building supply stores. Also located on Route 44 is the 330 acre Raynham Woods Commerce Park, which houses Johnson & Johnson Professionals, Inc. Employing 1200, this facility is responsible for the design and manufacturing of artificial knees and hips. FedEx, Wal-Mart, Marriott, Amica Insurance and Preferred Freezer Services are also found at the Raynham Woods Commerce Park. Greyhound racing fans can also be found at the Raynham Dog Track, which is known as one of the finest facilities in the nation.

Continuing on Route 44 one enters “Cranberry Country” and the 68.1 square mile town of Middleboro. Middleboro is the second largest town by land area in Massachusetts. The town has fully staffed Fire and Police Departments and municipally owned Water, Sewer, and Gas Departments. The population of the town is approximately 21,305. Middleboro has its own accredited school system teaching K-12. Middleboro’s principal industries are fire apparatus repair, lumber, calendars, brass goods, novelty items, warehousing and diversified products. It is the cranberry capital of the world and a major center of antiques. In the summer of 2007, Middleboro became the proposed location for a future resort casino, sponsored by the Wampanoag Tribe of Mashpee, Massachusetts. Residents have a median household income of \$61,041.

Traveling north on Route 18 from Middleboro one enters the quaint college town of Bridgewater, the site of the first *normal school* in America. Bridgewater State College is a member of the Massachusetts State College System and its scenic campus complements the historic character of the community. Farming and iron foundries were prevalent in the early days, but the emphasis shifted to shoe and nail manufacturing. Both industries declined in the 1970’s and like neighboring Middleboro, the town is striving to attract new industry to support the growing residential population in the town. The population of the town of Bridgewater is approximately 25,695 and the median household income is \$56,612. The addition of the commuter rail service to the town has established a much needed link to Boston.

South of the city of Taunton is the smallest member of our district, Berkley. Still rural in character, the 16.57 square mile farming community retains much of its original charm with a median household income of \$ 74,536. This town has experienced unprecedented growth in residential building throughout the 90’s and today. The town population is approximately 6,391, placing some strain on the resources of the Berkley Community School. The town does not have public high school, and students may choose to attend Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School, Bristol-County Agricultural School and Somerset High School. The town has little industry to support the tax base.

Employment in the district finds that 26% work in management, professional and related occupations, 27% in sales and office occupations, 17% in service occupations, and the balance divided among construction, production, and transportation.

89.4% of the population is white Non-Hispanic, with approximately 3.6% Hispanic, 2% Black, 0.6% Native American, 3.1% of other race and 2.3% of two or more races. (Total can be greater than 100% because Hispanics could be counted in other races.) There are 514 females and 654

male students attending Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School. A recent survey of our student population indicated that 93% of the parent/guardian of students at Bristol Plymouth Tech have completed high school. Of that, 13% have had some additional postsecondary schooling, 25% have a college degree, and 5% have an advanced degree.

Educationally, the area schools are to be commended for the fine job they do in preparing students for the challenging opportunities awaiting them at the postsecondary education level or in their chosen career path. The Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School District is home to 35 schools; 18 public elementary schools, 2 parochial elementary schools, 9 public middle/Jr.H.S., 1 parochial middle school, 4 public high schools and 1 parochial high school.

Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School is fortunate to have an excellent relationship with all the sending schools in the district. As of the latest available data the number of students attending the Taunton Public Schools is 8155, Bridgewater-Raynham School District is 5881, Middleboro Public Schools is 3561 and the Berkley Public Schools is 990 for a total of 19,755 students in the public school system.

There are a variety of social and recreational activities available for students and the community. For those who prefer to “shop ‘til they drop” the 120 store, 1 million square foot Silver City Galleria mall is the perfect place to start. Students in grades K-12 may also take advantage of organized team sports like soccer, basketball, football, softball, baseball, ice hockey and other sports available to both boys and girls in each of the towns and the city that makes up the Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School District. The school districts offer additional opportunities for after school activities at both the YMCA, the Boy’s and Girl’s Club, the Old Colony YMCA and other organizations that enrich the lives of the children who reside in the area. There are state parks for picnicking, lakes for fishing and boating, and golf courses for a more serious afternoon’s repast.

Although our economy, workplace and student population has changed, many things have remained constant in Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School’s thirty-six year history. We are still committed to providing an outstanding technical educational opportunity for our students. We continue to maintain a visible presence in our community through our various community service projects and our participation in and support of civic and business organizations. Most of all, we are dedicated to graduating conscientious, dependable and technically proficient students who will become successful, contributing members of society.