

Education Opens Doors

When someone in Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) Facilities and Transportation division has a computer problem, technician Alex Sanchez comes to the rescue. Part of Alex's preparation for his position came through information systems classes at Mountain View Alternative High School. "My high school courses, plus having the chance to job shadow with Facilities Management, were the paths to my current job."

Significantly, Alex took those classes as an adult student, and he hopes his commitment to education sets a positive example for his three children. "Education is important to me because I have lived the life of someone with little education. I am trying to model for my own kids the importance of an education because I don't want them to have to go through what I have."

ALEX SANCHEZ
Functional Applications Technician I

High School: Mountain View Alternative High School

CTE Programs Studied: Word Processing, Information Systems

Computer Applications Technician

Computer technicians help troubleshoot problems, install software and peripherals, set up new computers, and maintain existing ones. They can be found in almost every major company, organization, or institution, from colleges to corporations—any place that needs to keep lots of computers running smoothly.

Electives to take in high school

- Information Technology Fundamentals
- Information Systems
- Advanced Information Systems
- Database Design & Management
- Programming
- Network Administration

What to study after high school

In some cases, a high school diploma with the appropriate Career and Technical Education courses can be enough to obtain a job. However, many employers will require an associate degree, or specialized instruction from a trade school or community college. Technicians may also be required to maintain certifications relating to the software or hardware systems utilized by their employers.