

Legislative Oversight Committee
Educational and Cultural Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, February 12, 2019

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AGENDA

South Carolina House of Representatives



Legislative Oversight Committee

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL SUBCOMMITTEE

*Chairman Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.
The Honorable Neal A. Collins
The Honorable Patricia Moore "Pat" Henegan
The Honorable Tommy M. Stringer*

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

9:00 a.m.

Room 321-Blatt Building

Pursuant to Committee Rule 6.8, S.C. ETV shall be allowed access for internet streaming whenever technologically feasible.

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes
- II. Discussion of study of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School
- III. Adjournment

MEETING MINUTES

Chair Wm. Weston J. Newton

*First Vice-Chair:
Laurie Slade Funderburk*

Legislative Oversight Committee

*Micajah P. (Micah) Caskey, IV
Neal A. Collins
Patricia Moore (Pat) Henegan
William M. (Bill) Hixon
Jeffrey E. (Jeff) Johnson
Marvin R. Pendarvis
Tommy M. Stringer
Bill Taylor
Robert Q. Williams*



South Carolina House of Representatives

*Gary E. Clary
Chandra E. Dillard
Lee Hewitt
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.
Mandy Powers Norrell
Robert L. Ridgeway, III
Edward R. Tallon, Sr.
John Taliaferro (Jay) West, IV
Chris Wooten*

*Jennifer L. Dobson
Research Director*

*Cathy A. Greer
Administration Coordinator*

**Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
Telephone: (803) 212-6810 • Fax: (803) 212-6811
Room 228 Blatt Building**

*Charles L. Appleby, IV
Legal Counsel*

*Carmen J. McCutcheon Simon
Research Analyst/Auditor*

*Kendra H. Wilkerson
Fiscal/Research Analyst*

Education and Cultural Subcommittee

Thursday, January 31, 2019
Room 321 Blatt Building

Archived Video Available

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.8, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access an archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on *Committee Postings and Reports*, then under *House Standing Committees* click on *Legislative Oversight*. Then, click on *Video Archives* for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

- I. The Education and Cultural Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chairman Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr., Thursday, January 31, 2019, in Room 321 of the Blatt Building. All members, but Representative Henegan, were present for some or all of the meeting.

Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings. It is the practice of the Legislative Oversight Committee to provide minutes for its subcommittee meetings.

- II. Representative Tommy Stringer moves to approve the minutes from the Subcommittee’s meeting on October 23, 2018. A roll call vote is held, and the motion passes.

Representative Stringer’s motion to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2018, meeting:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Neal A Collins			✓	
Patricia Moore Henegan				✓
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Tommy Stringer	✓			

Discussion of Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

- I. Chairman Jefferson provides opening comments and states that this is the subcommittee’s first meeting with Wil Lou Gray. Further, he explains the purpose of the meeting is to receive an overview of the agency’s history, mission, and organizational structure.
- II. Chairman Jefferson swore in the following Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School staff:
- Pat Smith, Director
 - Shannan Woovis, Executive Assistant
 - Melissa Thurstin, Director of Finance and Human Resources
 - Theresa Trowell, Human Resources Manager
 - Stephanie Morton, Finance Department
 - Scott Gaines, Principal
 - Diane McNinch, Counseling Department
 - Brenda Arant, Health Director
 - Lettice Glenn, Social Work Director
 - Scott Poovey, Information Technology Director
 - Charlie Abbott, Director of Operations
 - Sarah Russell, Admissions Director
 - Capt. Michael Hamlin, JROTC Senior Instructor
- III. Director Smith and Ms. Thurstin provide testimony about Wil Lou Gray’s history, mission, strategic goals, human resources, and financial resources.
- IV. Agency staff respond to Subcommittee member questions about:
- I. Wil Lou Gray Board participation

2. Student capacity
3. Admissions process
4. Marketing
5. Wil Lou Gray fundraising and foundation
6. Methods for following graduate progress
7. Partnership with Lexington School District 2
8. Board training

Adjournment

- I. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.

STUDY TIMELINE

Legislative Oversight Committee Actions

- May 3, 2018 - Prioritizes the agency for study
- May 9, 2018 - Provides the agency with notice about the oversight process
- July 17 – August 20, 2018 - Solicits input from the public about the agency in the form of an online survey
- January 14, 2019 - Holds **Meeting 1** to **obtain public input** about the agency

Education and Cultural Subcommittee Actions

- January 31, 2019 - Holds **Meeting 2** with the agency to receive an overview of the agency's **history, mission, organization, products, and services**
- February 12, 2019 – Holds **Meeting 3** with the agency

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Actions

- March 11, 2015- Submits its **Annual Restructuring and Seven-Year Plan Report**
- January 11, 2016- Submits its **2016 Annual Restructuring Report**
- September 2016- Submits its **FY 2015-16 Accountability Report/Annual Restructuring Report**
- September 2017- Submits its **FY 2016-17 Accountability Report/Annual Restructuring Report**
- September 2018 – Submits its **FY 2017-18 Accountability Report/Annual Restructuring Report**
- November 11, 2018 - Submits its **Program Evaluation Report**
- January - TBD 2019- Meets with and **responds to Subcommittee inquiries**

Public's Actions

- July 17 – August 20, 2018 - Provides input about the agency via an **online public survey**
- January 14, 2019 – Provides testimony at public input meeting

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Snapshot

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

Agency History

In 1921, Dr. Wil Lou Gray, Supervisor of Adult Schools for the SC Department of Education, opened the Opportunity School in Tamassee as an experiment in adult education for women and girls. Between 1921 and 1957, the school rotated around the state, including stops at Anderson, Erskine, Lander, Clemson, and Columbia Colleges. In 1957, the General Assembly declared the school a body politic under the oversight of a Board of Trustees.

Residential
Academic Services
Counseling Services
Healthcare
Admissions

Five Major
Service Divisions

Agency Mission

Serve those citizens of South Carolina between sixteen and nineteen years of age who are most at risk of:

- Being retained in their grade in school.
- Dropping out of school and not completing their education.
- Not making the transition from public schools to the work force.
- Being truant from school, or whose home, school or community environment hinders rather than enhances the chance that they will stay in school and become prepared for employment.

98.41
available FTEs
(87.04 filled)

\$8,927,095
appropriated
and authorized
to spend

Fiscal Year 2018-19 Resources

Successes

As identified by the agency

- Increasing individual GED pass rates
- Partnering with S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation to recover dropouts and provide services geared toward obtaining gainful employment
- Providing service learning opportunities for students

Challenges

As identified by the agency

- Retaining agency staff
- Declining requisite academic proficiencies
- Coordinating services with other agencies

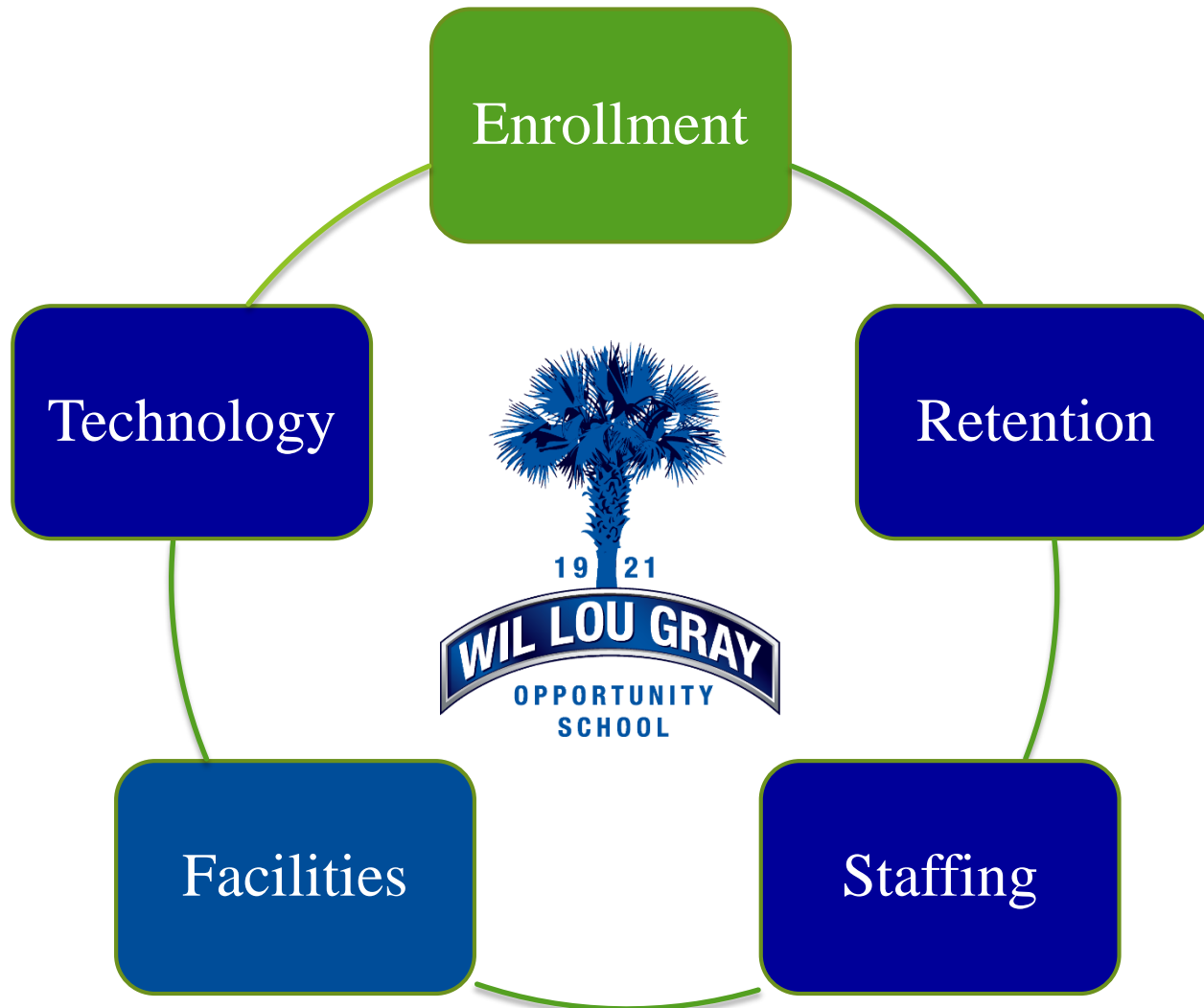
Emerging Issues

Competing alternative programs, Increasing number of applications with chronic mental health and acute medical issues, and Managing a secure, open campus environment

Source: Agency Program Evaluation Report and 2017-18 Accountability Report

AGENCY PRESENTATION





GOALS

Enrollment



Mission

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School exists to serve those citizens of South Carolina between the ages of sixteen and nineteen who are most at risk of:

1. Being retained in their grade in school.
2. Dropping out of school and not completing their education.
3. Not making the transition from public schools to the work force.
4. Being truant from school, or whose home, school or community environment hinders rather than enhances the chance that they will stay in school and become prepared for employment.



Vision

In keeping with the vision of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, the Admissions Department is responsible for enrolling the “at-risk” students who desire to become productive and employable young adults in South Carolina.

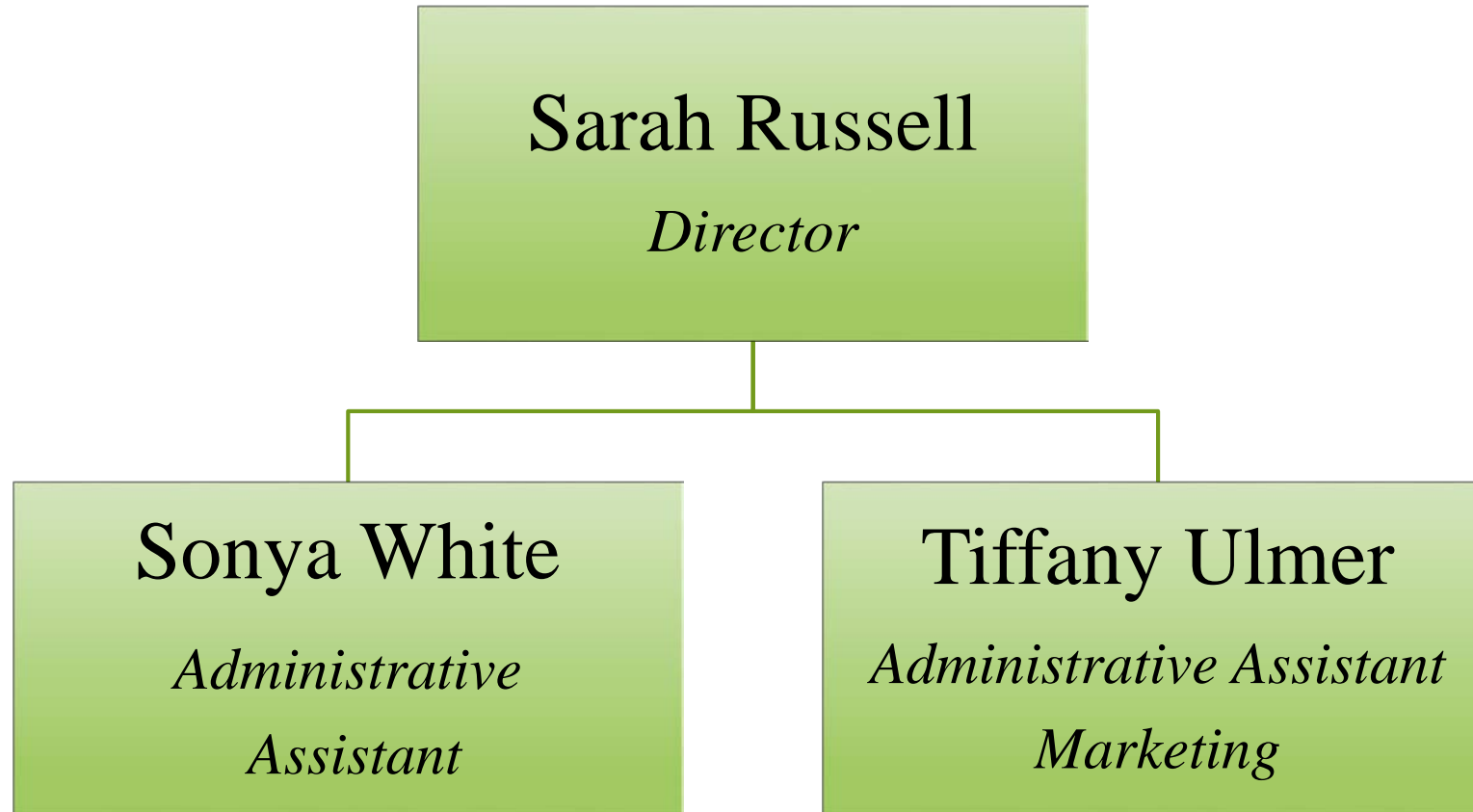


Admissions Policy

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, or disability in admission to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities.



Admissions Department

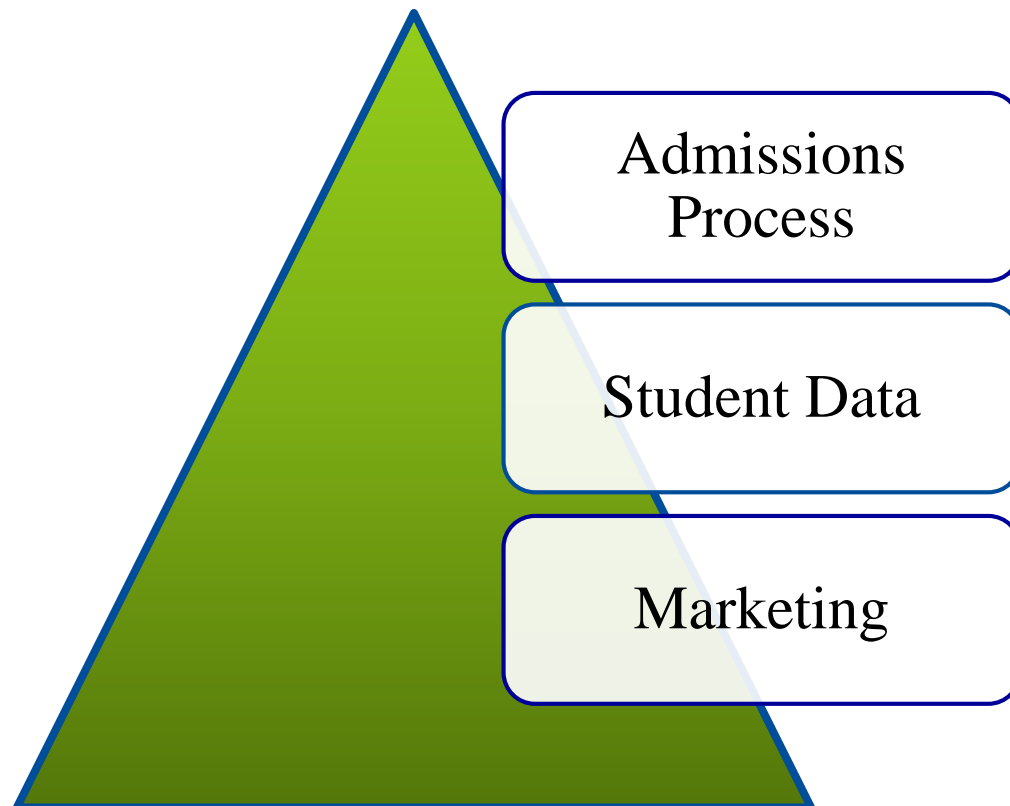


Resources Available Per Appropriations Act

Organization	Budget for 2018-2019	Number of FTE's
Admissions	\$154,794	2.5
Recruiting	\$275,287	.5



The **Enrollment** goal is achieved through the use of three main strategies necessary to maintain a strong and continuous flow of applications:





Admissions Process

In keeping with the mission of The Opportunity School, it is the sole responsibility of the Admissions Department to enroll students who qualify for the program. The Admissions Process is the first step each student takes in order to become a possible candidate, so it is very important that the application flows both efficiently and effectively for all.



Admissions Process

InfoSnap

- ▶ InfoSnap is an applicant tracking system affiliated with the parent company PowerSchool.
- ▶ This tool is utilized by many districts throughout South Carolina.
- ▶ This program assists in stream-lining all applicant data at Wil Lou Gray.
- ▶ We went live with this new on-line application feature on January 2017.



Admissions Process

Records

Requesting and reviewing all records for each student.

- ▶ Academic transcripts
- ▶ Disciplinary records
- ▶ Special Education records
- ▶ Legal
- ▶ Medical records, if needed



Admissions Process

Interview

- ▶ On-site interview
- ▶ Webcam interviews, one-way recorded interview for those with transportation conflicts.



Admissions Process

Enrollment Decision

- ▶ Criteria
 - ▶ Academic Level (attendance, grades and earned credits.)
 - ▶ Interview presentation
 - ▶ Discipline and/or Legal involvement
 - ▶ Extreme criminal background requires further evaluation
 - ▶ Criminal sexual conduct
 - ▶ Felonies
 - ▶ Ability to conform to school environment (quasi-military structure and rigorous GED curriculum).
 - ▶ Level of interest
 - ▶ Parental support (mandatory pass dates and emotional support).



Student Data

The Admissions Department uses the data collected from the application and program completion to assist in current and future enrollment at Wil Lou Gray. Using the data captured on both the Admissions Profile and student application allows for a more specific marketing plan for future enrollment.



Student Data

Admissions Profiling

- ▶ Applications Received
- ▶ Students Accepted
- ▶ Students Enrolled
- ▶ Student Completions
- ▶ GED Numbers

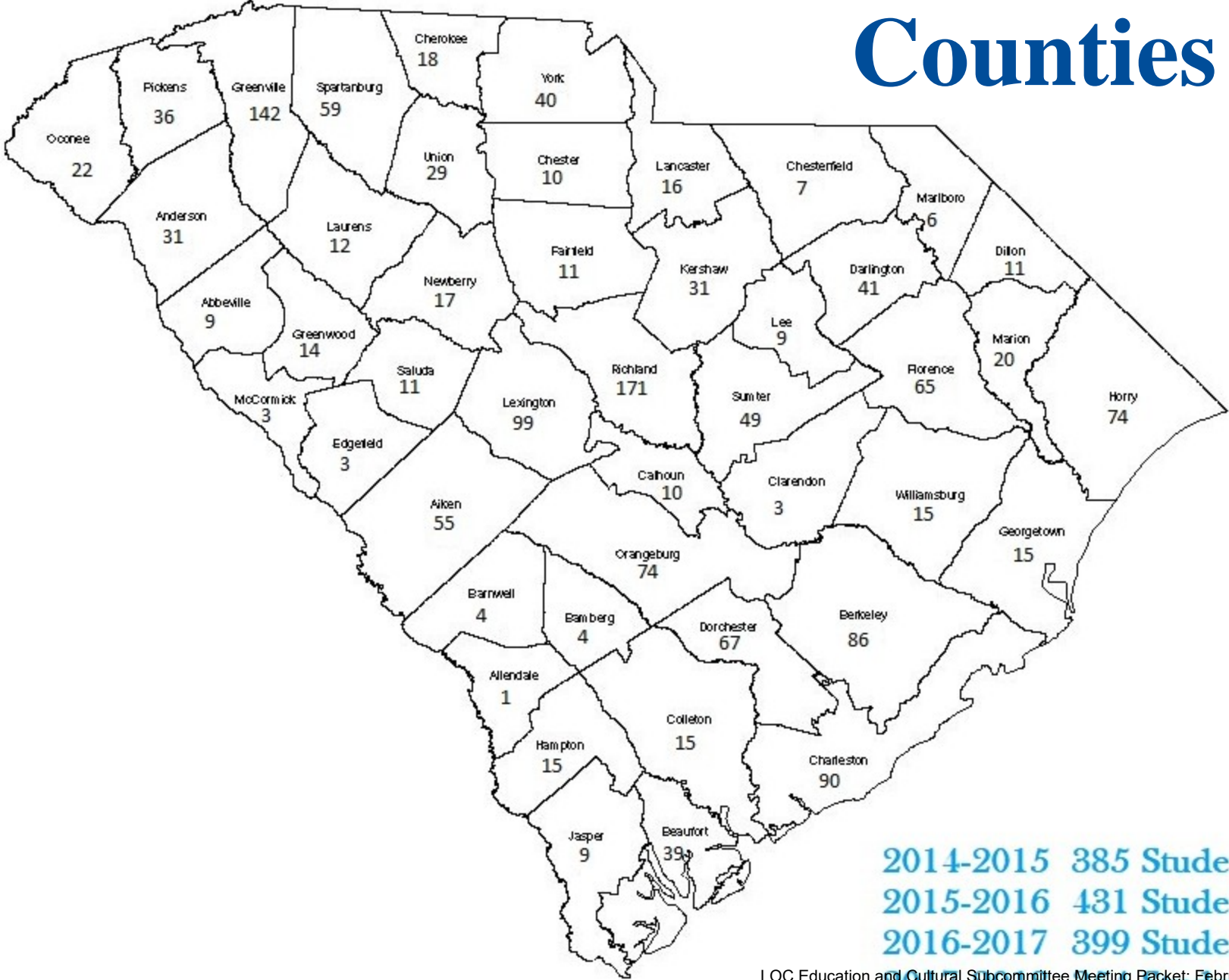
Student Application

- ▶ Gender
- ▶ Race
- ▶ County
- ▶ Age
- ▶ Previous School District
- ▶ Referral Source

Admissions Profile

	Applications Received	Accepted	Enrolled	Completed Program	GED
2014-2015	966	463	385	292	155
2015-2016	1342	527	431	303	192
2016-2017	1229	479	399	290	201
2017-2018	1013	414	354	268	194

Counties Served

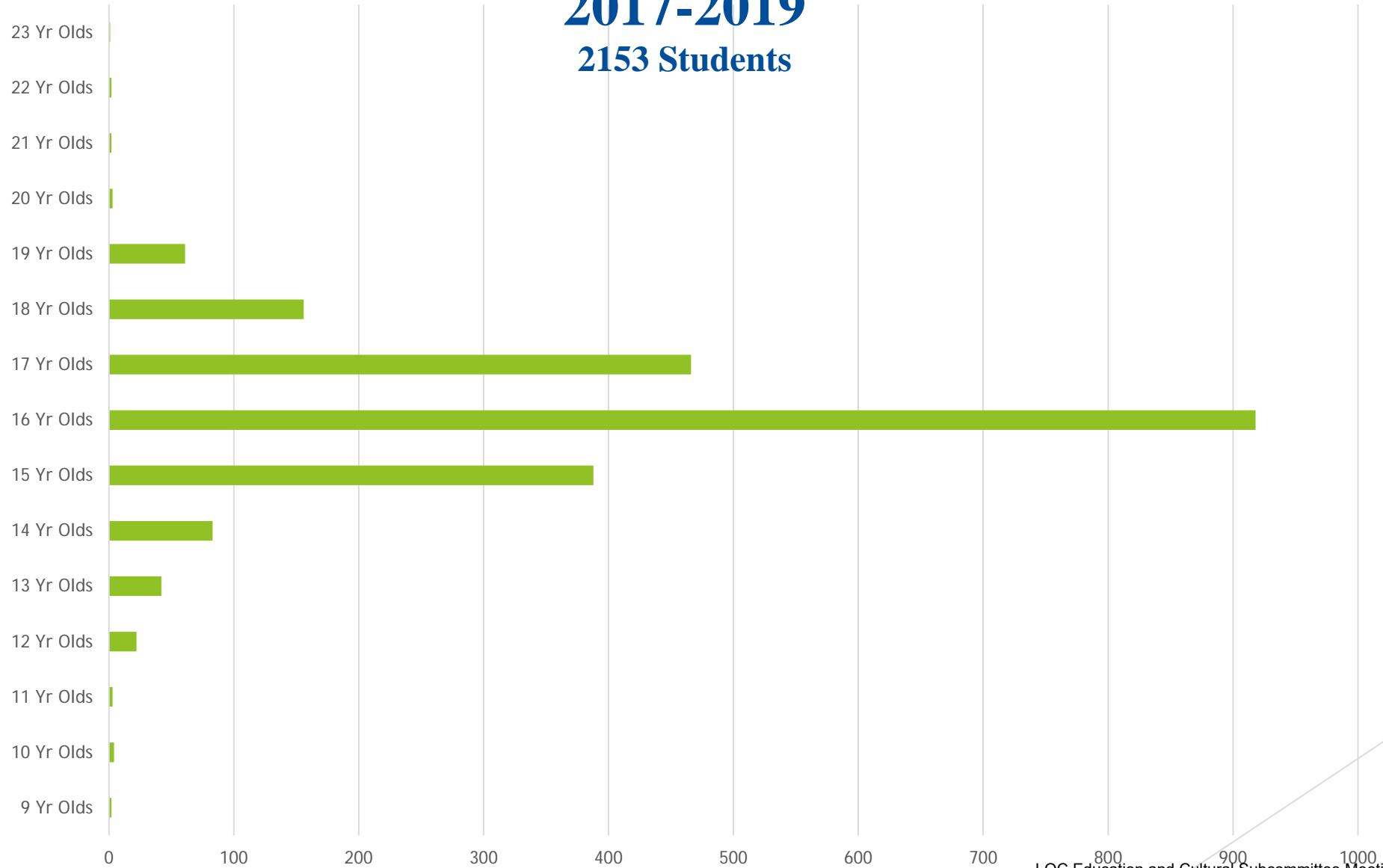


2014-2015 385 Students
 2015-2016 431 Students
 2016-2017 399 Students
 2017-2018 354 Students

Age Range For Applicants

2017-2019

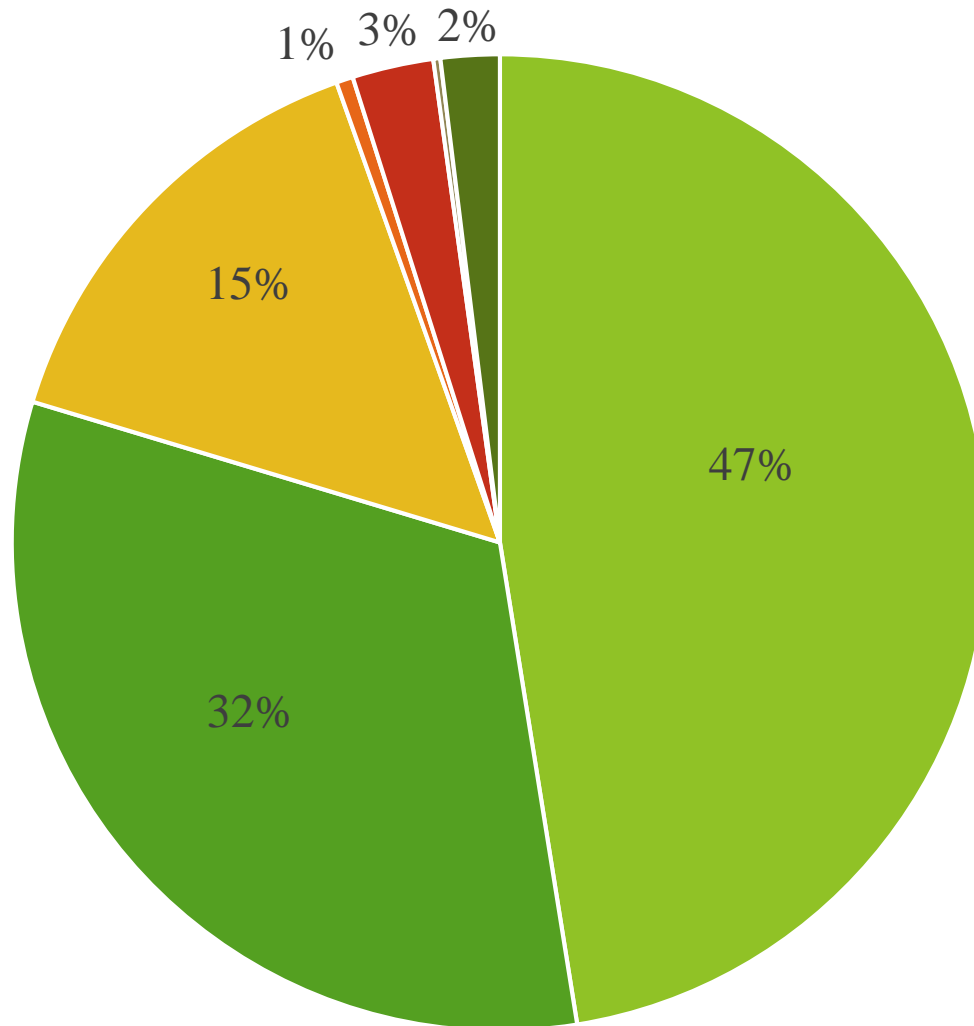
2153 Students



Race Demographics

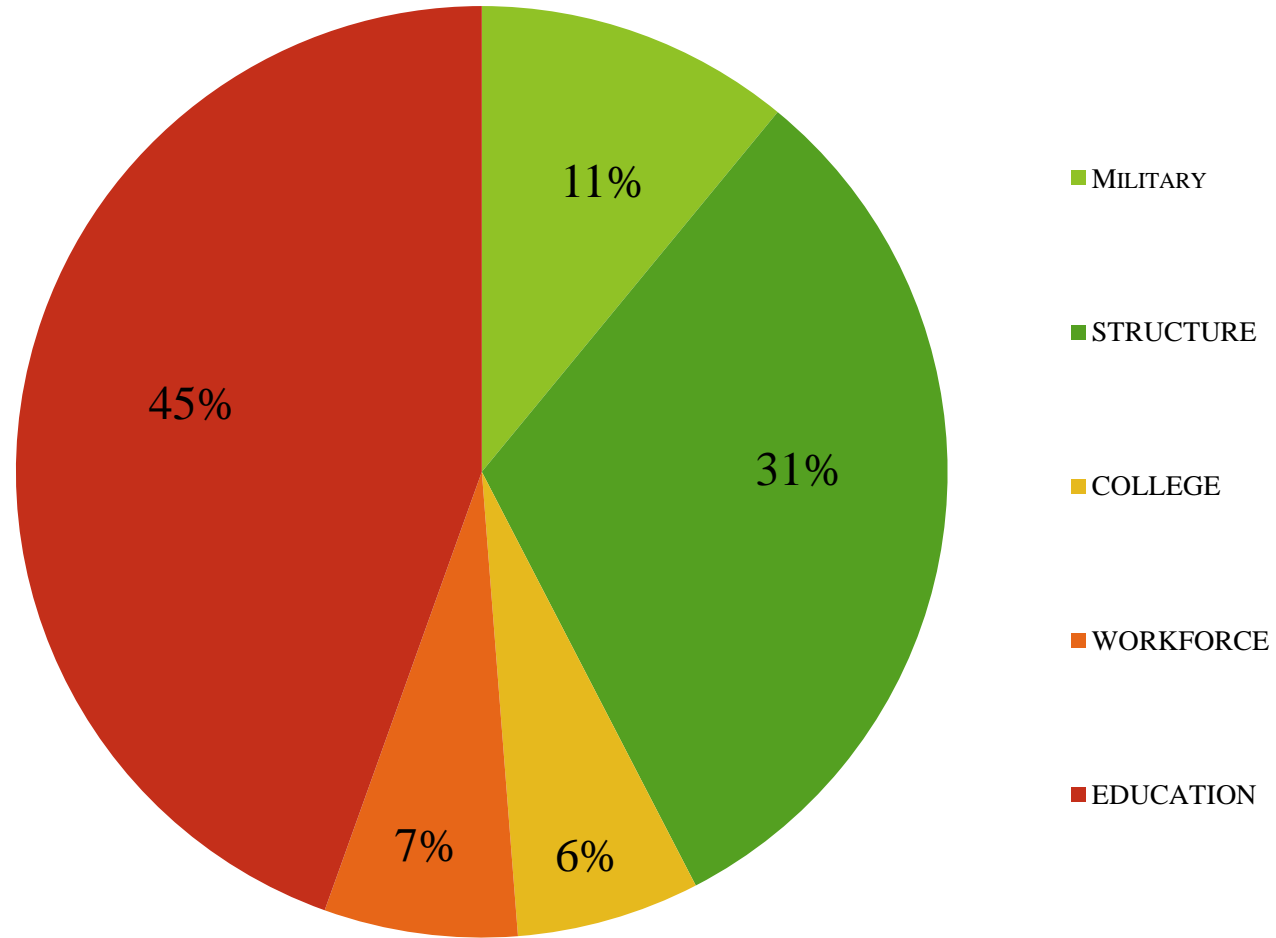
2017-2019

2153 Students



- African American
- White
- Multi
- Asian
- Hispanic
- Indian
- Other

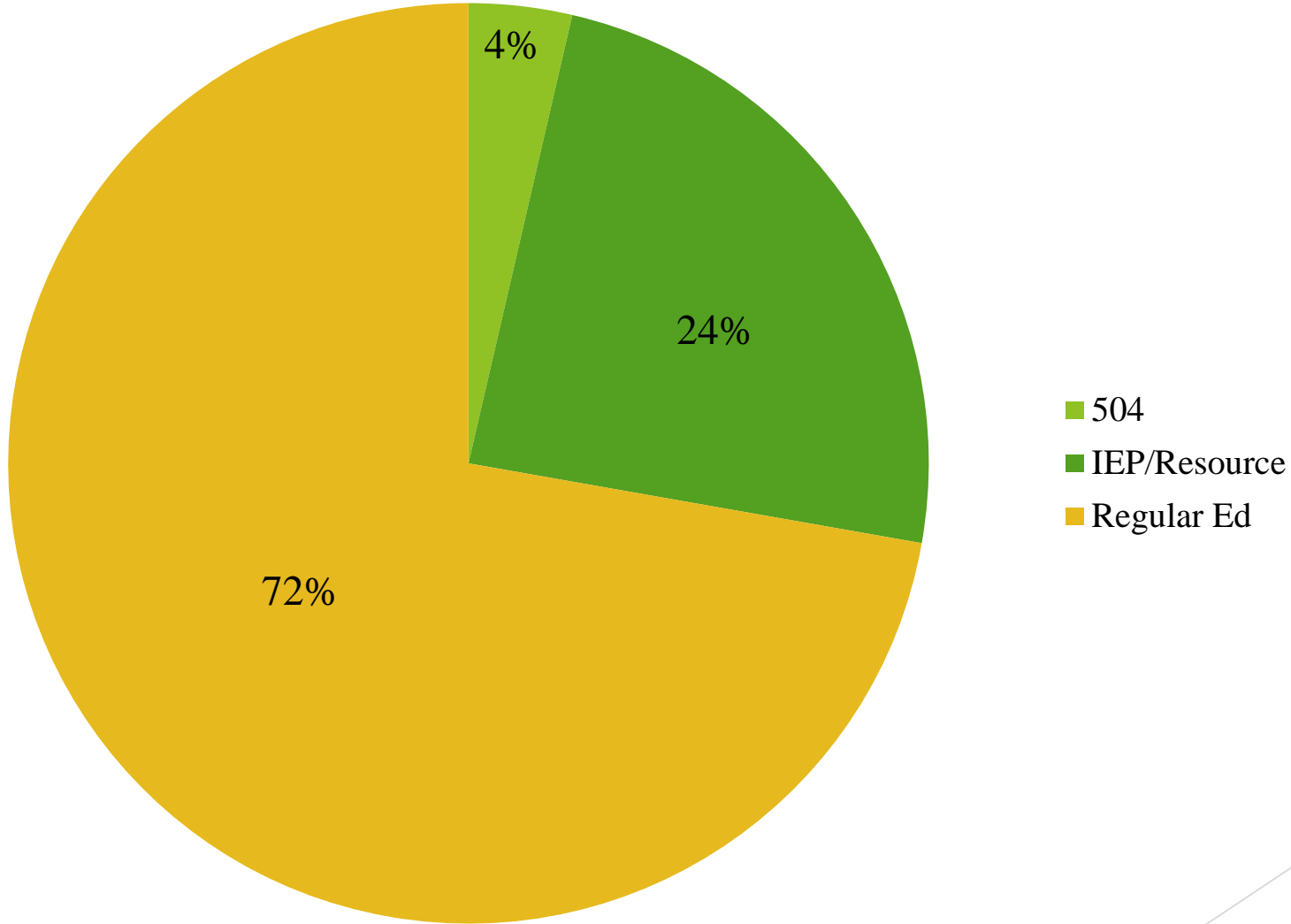
Reasons for Attending 2017-2019 2153 Students



Disability Demographics

2017-2019

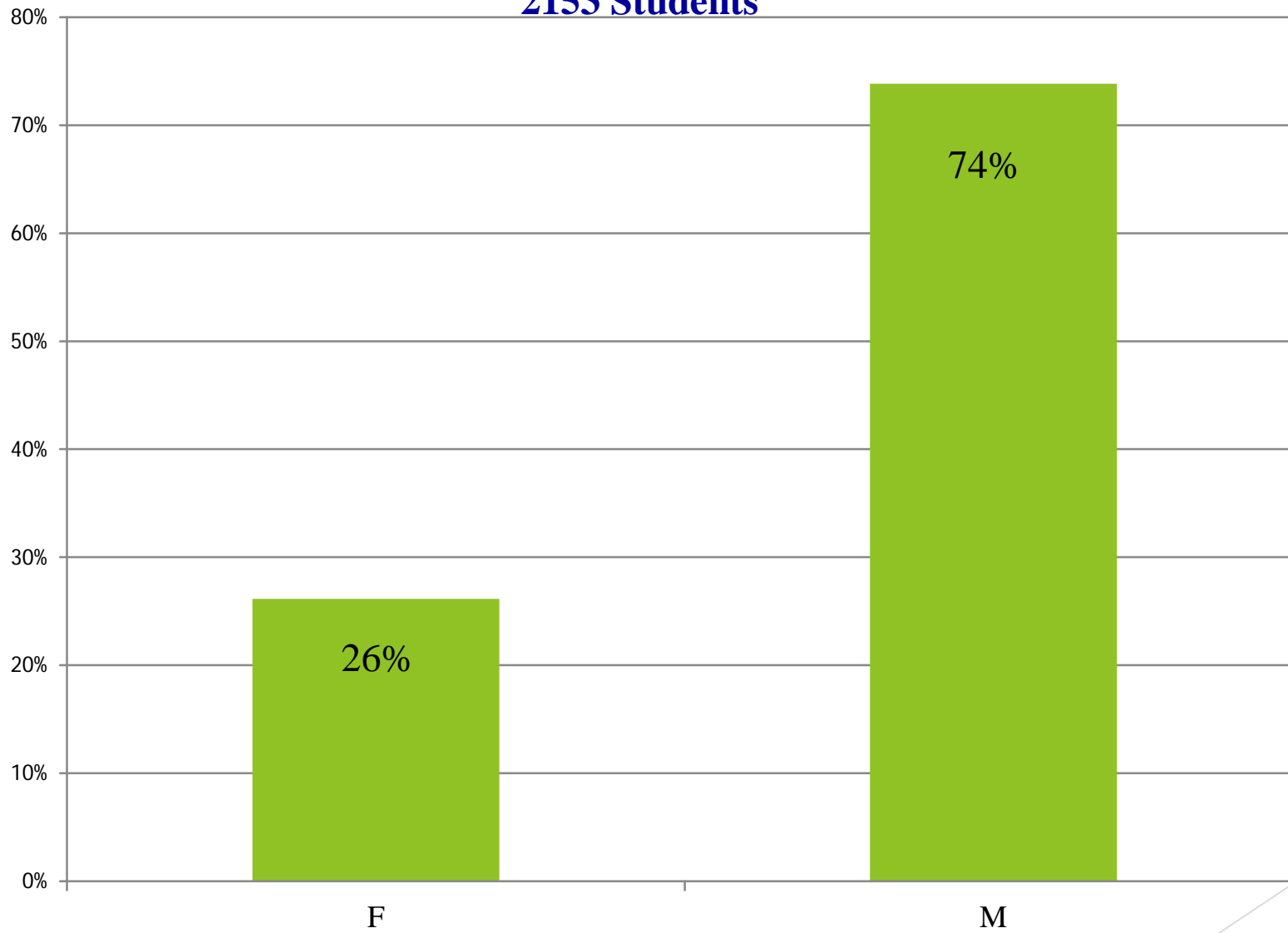
2153 Students



Gender Demographics

2017-2019

2153 Students





Marketing

The Admissions Department uses the data collected from the application and program completion to assist in the overall marketing strategy. Information received from the application regarding referrals to The Opportunity School has been the most effective tool in placement of billboards, radio advertisements and direct presentations. As our school offers three 14-week sessions per year, it is imperative that our marketing strategy remain updated so all “at-risk” youth of South Carolina are aware of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.



Marketing

▶ Update marketing material

- ▶ Brochures
- ▶ Website
- ▶ Facebook
- ▶ LinkedIn
- ▶ Tour Video
- ▶ Orientation Video

▶ Attend and Exhibit at Conferences

- ▶ Palmetto State School Counselors Association
- ▶ South Carolina Association of School Administrators
- ▶ South Carolina School Counselors Association



Marketing

- ▶ **School and agency connection presentations**
 - ▶ South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - ▶ South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
 - ▶ State-Wide Attendance Supervisors
 - ▶ South Carolina School Districts
 - ▶ South Carolina Department of Social Services

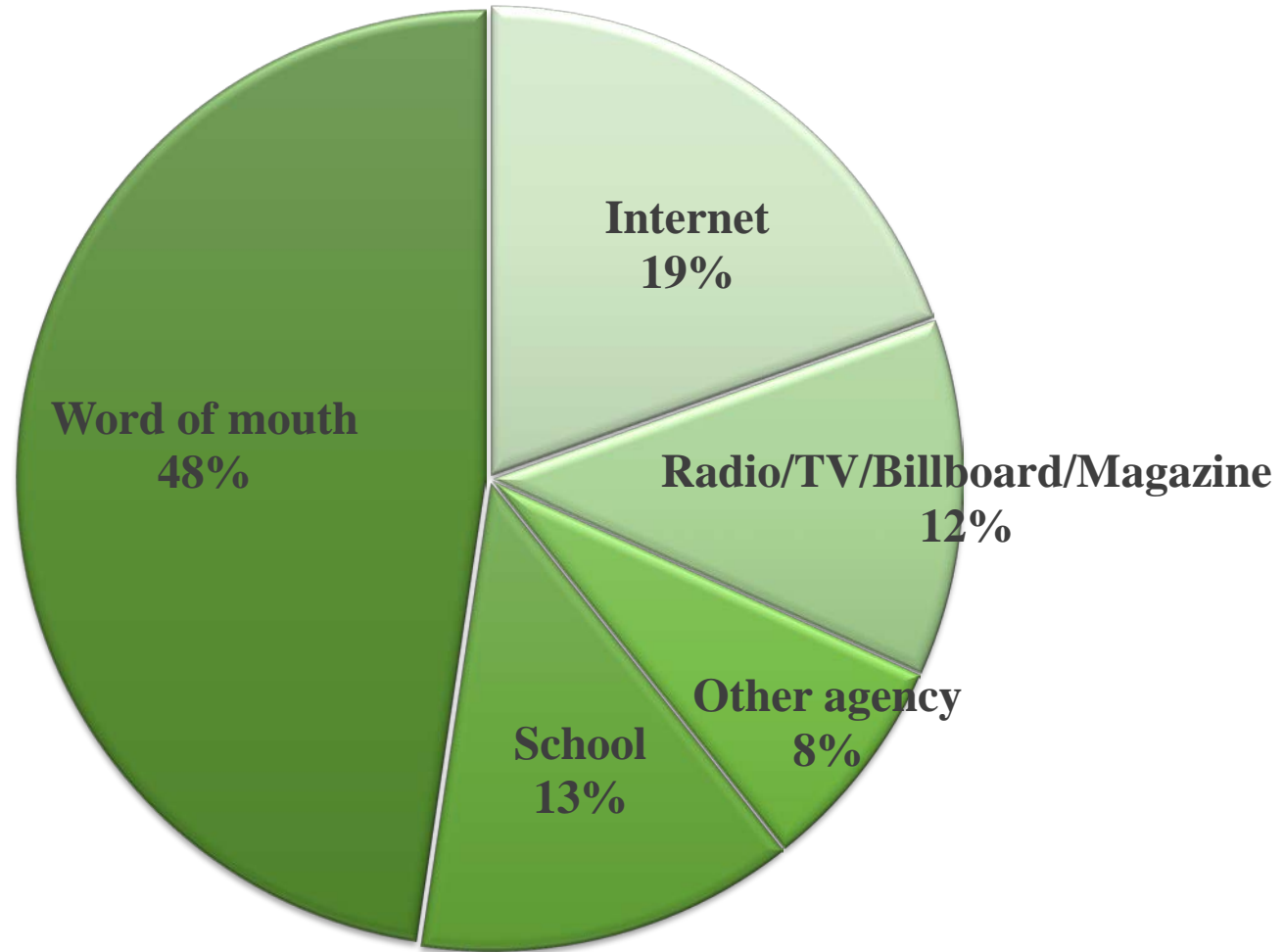
- ▶ **Mass Mailers**

- ▶ **Word of Mouth**

- ▶ **County Profile**

Student Referrals

2017-2018





Committee Mission

Determine if agency laws and programs are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly and whether they should be continued, curtailed or eliminated. Inform the public about state agencies.

Website: <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee.php>

Phone Number: 803-212-6810

Email Address: HCommLegOv@schouse.gov

Location: Blatt Building, Room 228