

# *Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School*

WEST CAMPUS ROAD • WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29170 • (803) 896-6480 FAX (803) 896-6490

February 11, 2019

The Honorable Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.  
Chair, Education and Cultural Subcommittee  
P.O. Box 11867  
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Representative Jefferson:

I am pleased to provide the enclosed responses to the Education and Cultural Subcommittee's request for more detailed information regarding the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. I believe these responses satisfy those particular inquiries; however, should additional information be necessary, the Opportunity School will provide it forthwith.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Pat G. Smith  
Director

Enclosures



1. First School Of Its Kind  
2. Classes That Fit Every Pupil  
3. Serving "At Risk" Youth 16 to 18 Years of Age

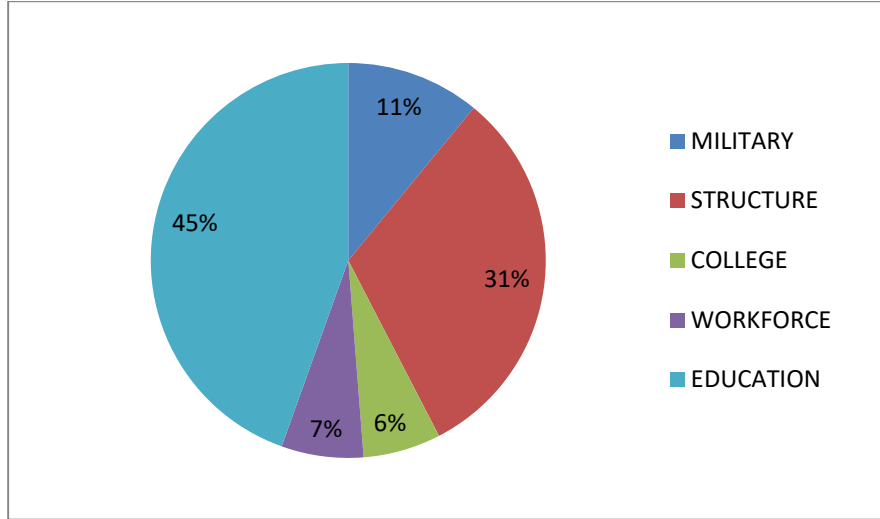
4. Fully Accredited  
5. Individual Development  
6. A State Agency

**EDUCATION AND CULTURAL SUBCOMMITTEE (ECSC)  
 ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION  
 WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL (WLGOS) – RESPONSE**

I. Student Characteristics and Demographics

- a) **ECSC Request:** Provide a breakdown of reasons why admitted students chose to apply to Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, for each of the last three school years.

(WLGOS) Why Students Chose to Attend - Academic Years 2016-2018



- b) **ECSC Request:** Provide the number of students attending by home school district for each of the last three school years.

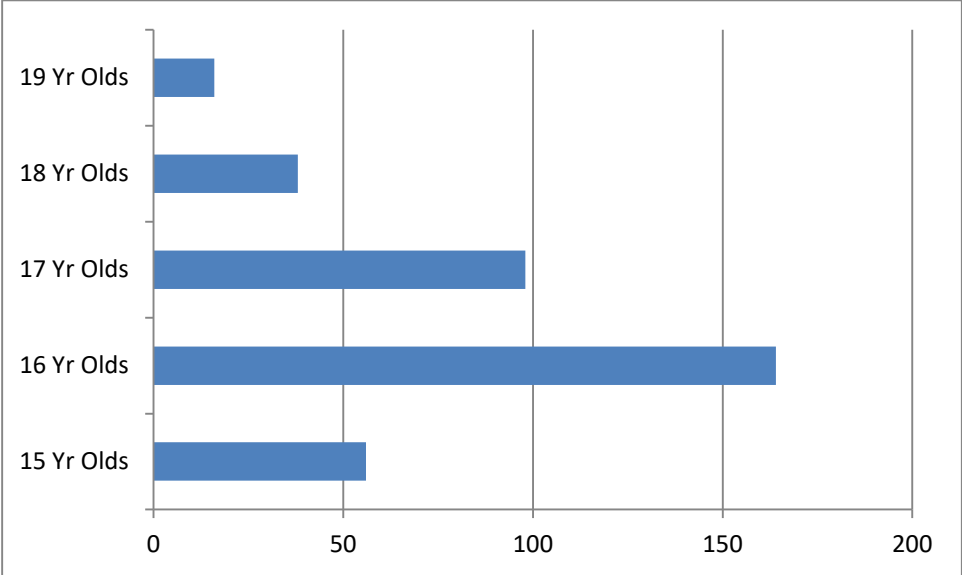
(WLGOS) Students Attending by Home School District 2016-2018

Aiken	14	Fairfield	3	Pickens	4
Anderson 1	4	Florence 1	11	Richland 1	12
Anderson 2	4	Florence 3	2	Richland 2	14
Anderson 4	3	Georgetown	1	Saluda	1
Anderson 5	2	Greenville	36	Spartanburg 2	3
Bamberg	2	Greenwood 50	6	Spartanburg 4	6
Barnwell 45	1	Homeschool	1	Spartanburg 5	2
Beaufort	3	Horry	18	Spartanburg 6	1
Berkeley	28	Jasper	1	Sumter	6
Calhoun	3	Kershaw	3	Sumter 2	3
Charleston	12	Laurens 55	3	Union	5
Cherokee	3	Lexington 1	14	Williamsburg	9
Chester	1	Lexington 2	7	Youth Challenge Transfers	1
Chesterfield	3	Lexington 5	7	York 2	2
Clarendon 2	3	Marion	12		
Colleton	4	McCormick	1		
Darlington	21	Oconee	3		
Dillon 3	1	Online	10		
Dillon 4	3	Out of State (OOS)	14		
DJJ	1	Orangeburg 3	5		
Dorchester 2	23	Orangeburg 4	3		
Dorchester 4	1	Orangeburg 5	3		

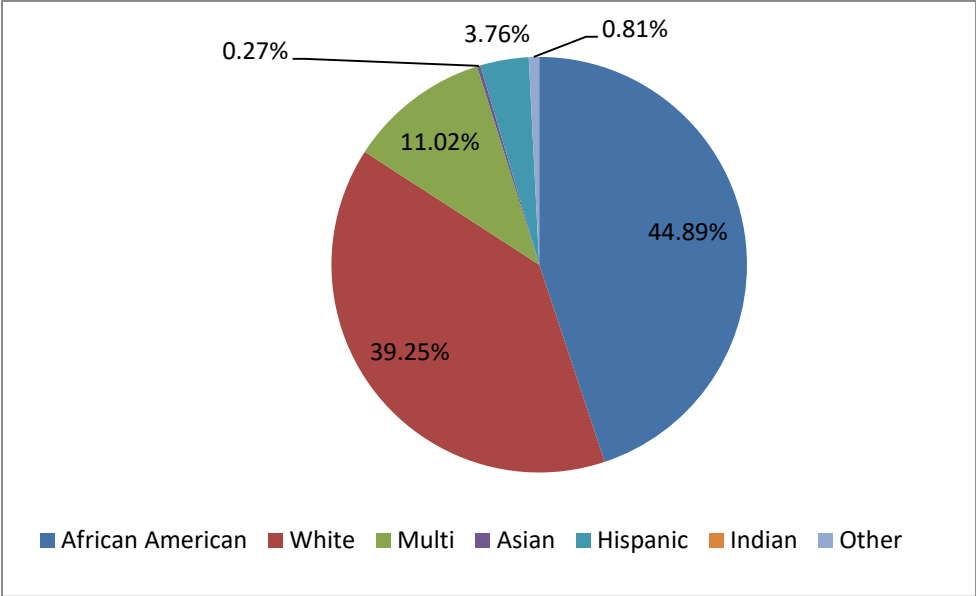
c) **ECSC Request:** Provide demographic information for the students attending Wil Lou Gray for each of the last three school years in the following categories: Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Disability.

(**WLGOS**) Demographic information for students attending WLGOS for each of the last three school years in the following categories: Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Disability.

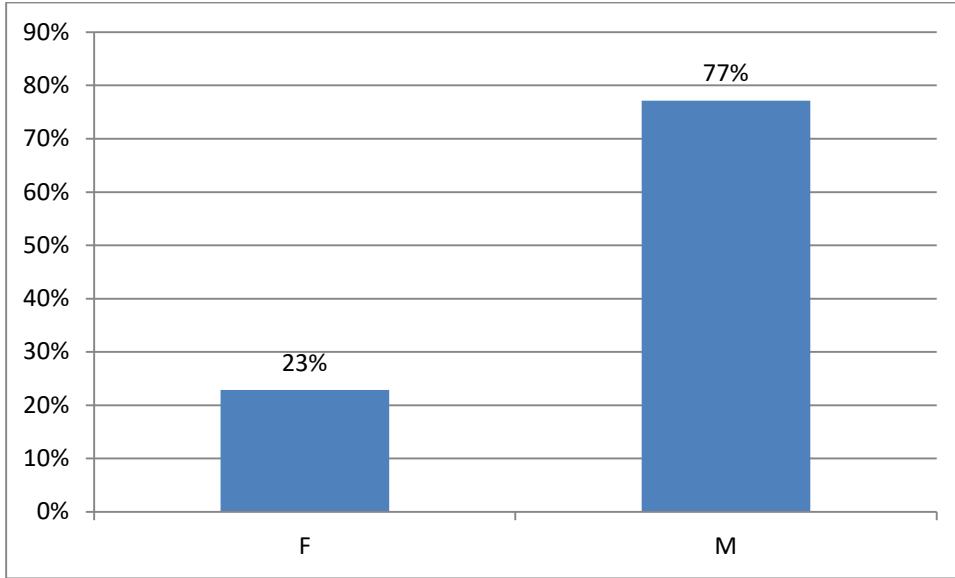
Ages of Students Attending Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School – Academic Years 2016-2018



Race of Students Attending Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School 2016-2018

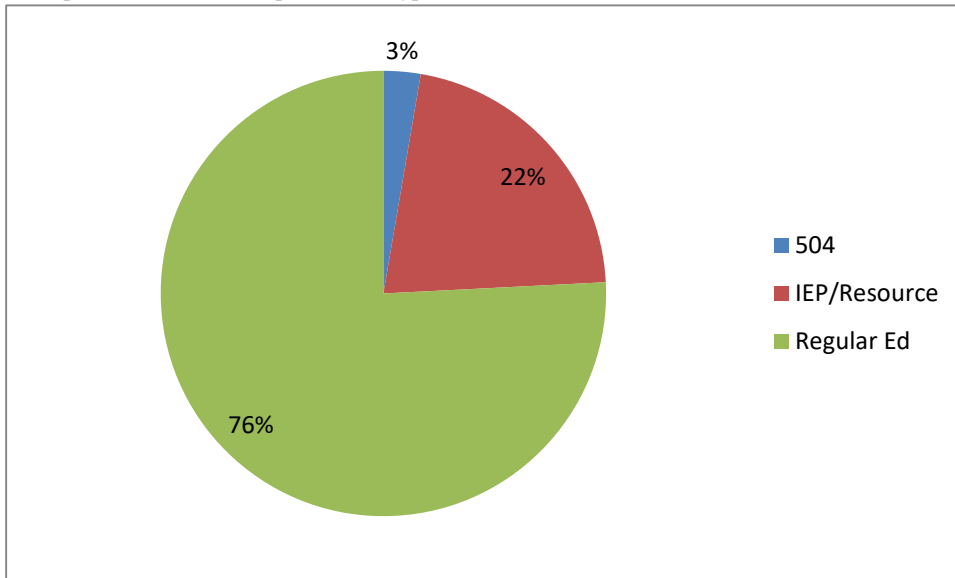


### Gender of Students Attending Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School 2016-2018



### Disability of Students Attending Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School 2016-2018

(Seventy-six percent of students attending Wil Lou Gray were regular ed. and did not have a disability. Three percent of students required some type of accommodation.)

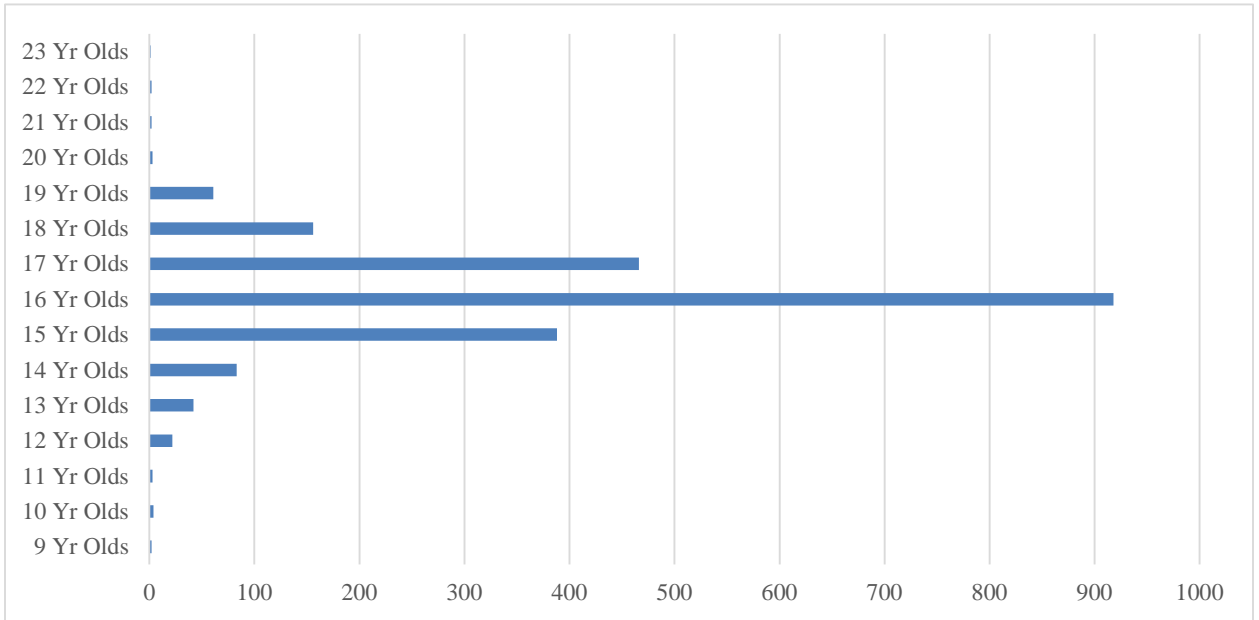


d) **ECSC Request:** Provide all of the above for the entire applicant pool.

**(WLGOS) Applicants by Home School District - Academic Years 2016-2018**

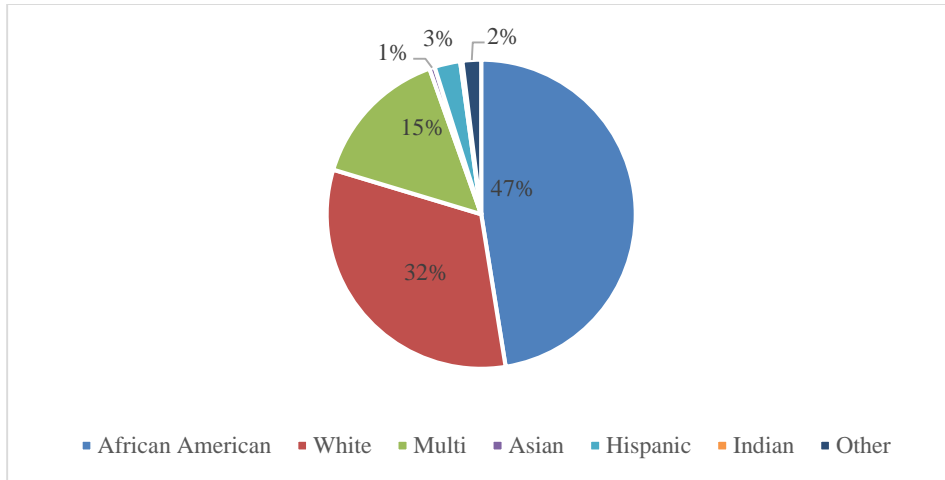
Abbeville	4	Florence 2	3	Richland 1	102
Aiken	76	Florence 3	12	Richland 2	89
Allendale	8	Florence 4	2	Saluda	5
Anderson 1	13	Florence 5	4	Spartanburg 1	2
Anderson 2	12	Georgetown	26	Spartanburg 2	8
Anderson 3	5	Greenville	170	Spartanburg 3	2
Anderson 4	7	Greenwood 50	24	Spartanburg 4	9
Anderson 5	26	Hampton 1	1	Spartanburg 5	12
Bamberg	5	Hampton 2	6	Spartanburg 6	14
Bamberg 2	2	Homeschool	11	Spartanburg 7	12
Barnwell 19	8	Horry	79	Sumter	61
Barnwell 29	3	Jasper	4	Sumter 2	17
Barnwell 45	4	Kershaw	17	Union	18
Beaufort	26	Lancaster	3	Williamsburg	32
Berkeley	121	Lancaster 55	10	Youth Challenge Transfers	5
Calhoun	10	Laurens 56	2	York 1	5
Charleston	140	Lee	5	York 2	9
Cherokee	17	Lexington 1	77	York 3	18
Chester	7	Lexington 2	40	York 4	12
Chesterfield	15	Lexington 3	2	Out of State (OOS)	171
Clarendon 1	2	Lexington 4	6		
Clarendon 2	12	Lexington 5	35		
Clarendon 3	4	Marion	32		
Colleton	25	Marion 3	2		
Darlington	54	Marlboro	3		
Dillon 3	5	McCormick	6		
Dillon 4	12	Newberry	12		
DJJ	6	Oconee	20		
Dorchester 2	96	Online	48		
Dorchester 4	8	Orangeburg 3	24		
Edgefield	2	Orangeburg 4	20		
Fairfield	8	Orangeburg 5	34		
Florence 1	49	Pickens	18		

**(WLGOS) Demographic Information for the Entire Applicant Pool School Years 2016-2018 by the Following Categories: Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Disability.**

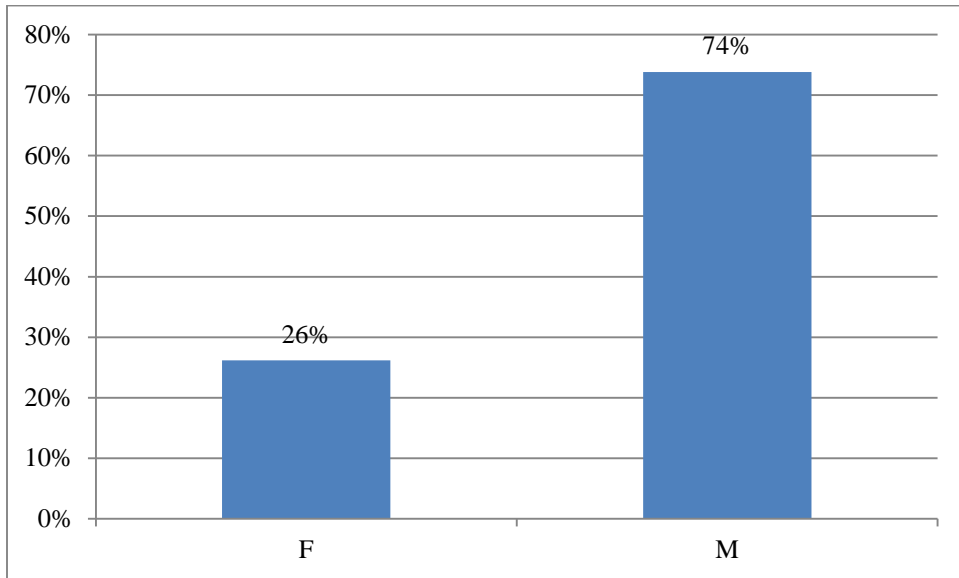


**Ages of Students Applying to Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School 2016-2018**

**Race of Students Applying to Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School 2016-2018**



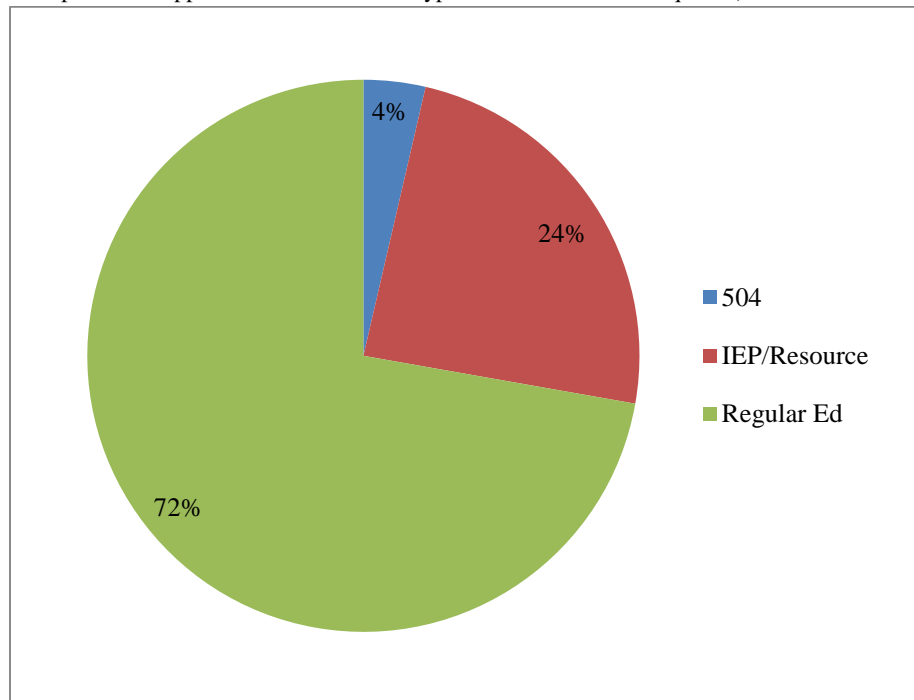
Gender of Students Applying to Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School 2016-2018



Disability of Students Applying to Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School 2016-2018

(Seventy-two percent of applicants were regular ed. and did not indicate a disability.

Four percent of applicants indicated some type of accommodation required.)



\*All statistical data for applicant pool is based on 2,153 applications for 2016-2018.

II. ADMISSIONS PROCESS

- a) **ECSC Request:** Please provide a copy of the school's application.



# Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Application

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## Student Information

*First Name* *Session*  
*Middle Name*  
*Last Name*  
  
*Gender*  
*Date of Birth*  
*Age*  
*Social Security Number*

## Home/Residential Information

*Home Phone* *Is the student's mailing address different than the physical  
address listed above?*  
  
*Are you a legal resident of South Carolina?*

*Address*  
*City*  
*County*  
*State*  
*Zip*

## Ethnicity and Race Report

*What is the student's race?*

## Background Information

*Is student adopted?* *How did you find out about Wil Lou Gray?*  
  
*Please Specify*  
*Have you applied to Wil Lou Gray in the past?*

## Previous School

*Last School Attended* *Phone Number*  
*Fax Number* *School District*  
*Last Grade Completed*  
  
*Do you receive Special Education Services?*

## Legal Involvement

*Has student ever had any involvement with the legal system, even  
if charges were dismissed?* *Has student ever had a Probation Officer?*  
  
  
*Is the student currently pending a court date?*

**Various Placements**

*How many placements has the student had? This includes foster homes, group homes, detention centers, DJJ Evaluation Centers, treatment programs for substance abuse and psychiatric hospitalizations.*

**Parent/Guardian Information**

*Student primarily lives with*

**Mother**

*First Name*

*Last Name*

*Is this parent/guardian authorized to pick up the student?*

*Employer*

*Home Phone*

*Day Phone*

*Email Address*

Check if this Parent/Guardian has no email address.

**Father**

*First Name*

*Last Name*

*Is this parent/guardian authorized to pick up the student?*

*Employer*

*Home Phone*

*Day Phone*

*Email Address*

Check if this Parent/Guardian has no email address.

**Other Parent/Guardian**

*First Name*

*Last Name*

*Relationship to Student*

*Is this parent/guardian authorized to pick up the student?*

*Employer*

*Home Phone*

*Day Phone*

*Email Address*

Check if this Parent/Guardian has no email address.

**DSS Guardianship**

*DSS County*

*Case Worker First Name*

*Case Worker Last Name*

*Case Worker Phone*

*Case Worker Email*

*Address*

Check if no email address is available.

**Emergency Contact Information**

**Contact #1**

*First Name*

*Last Name Relationship*

*to Student*

*Phone Type*

*Phone*

*Is this emergency contact authorized to pick up the student?*

**Contact #2**

*First Name*  
*Last Name Relationship*  
*to Student*

*Phone Type*  
*Phone*  
*Is this emergency contact authorized to pick up the student?*

**Contact #3**

*First Name*  
*Last Name Relationship*  
*to Student*

*Phone Type*  
*Phone*  
*Is this emergency contact authorized to pick up the student?*

**Student's Medical Information**

**Physician**

*Physician Name*  
*Phone*

**Dentist**

*Dentist Name*  
*Phone*

**Mental Health Counselor**

*Mental Health Counselor Name*  
*Phone*

**Health History**

*Height*  
*Weight*

*Please Check All That Apply to Student*

- Anemia
- Epilepsy/Seizures
- STD/HIV/AIDS
- Diabetes
- Sickle Cell
- Broken Bones
- Back Pain/Injury
- Neurological Problems
- Heart Problems
- Bleeding Problems
- Eating Disorder
- OB/GYN Problems

- Asthma
- Trouble Sleeping
- High/Low Blood Pressure
- Bed Wetting
- Tuberculosis
- Scoliosis
- Hepatitis A/B/C/D
- Head Injury
- Dizziness/Fainting
- Allergies/Shot
- Gastro/Intestinal Problems

*Medical Condition*  
*Explanations*

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**Substance Use**

Tobacco Products  
 Marijuana/Spices  
*Other Substance Use* n/a

Alcohol  
 Pills

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**Emotional Issues**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental illness                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Depression/excessive worry                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety/Panic                       | <input type="checkbox"/> ADHD/ADD  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hallucinations                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Schizophrenia                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personality Disorder                | <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct Disorder                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autism                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal thoughts/gestures or Attempted suicide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Explosive Disorders                 |  |

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**Behavioral Issues**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physically/Verbally Aggressive | <input type="checkbox"/> Runaway                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gang involvement               | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullies                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violent                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Been physically abused |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Been verbally abused           | <input type="checkbox"/> Been sexually abused   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexually abused others         | <input type="checkbox"/> Abusive to self        |

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**Additional Health**

*Special dietary needs?*

*Allergies?*

*Hospitalizations?*

*Surgeries?*

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**Insurance Information**

**Medicaid Information**

*Insurance Company*

*Policy Holder Name*

*Policy ID*

*Policy Holder DOB*

*Policy Holder SSN*

- Student does not have health insurance.

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**Medications**

*How many medications does your son/daughter take?*

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**Over the Counter Medications**

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School stock Over the Counter (OTC) medications in the healthroom. These listed medications will be given as directed on the package and, only if deemed necessary by the school nurse. We will make every attempt to keep your student in class and learning. In order to receive any medications during the school year, a student must have on file with the nurse the completed Health History and OTC Medication forms before any services will be rendered.

Please select the medications that your child is NOT authorized to consume from the list below:

- Muscle Rubs (Flexall, Bengay)
- Gastrointestinal medications (Tums, Mylanta, Zantac, Pepcid, Simethicone, Nexium)
- Non-narcotic analgesics (Ibuprofen, Tylenol, Aleve)
- Genitourinary medications (AZO, Monistat)
- Sinus Meds/Antihistamines (Allegra, Zyrtec, Claritin)
- Expectorants (Mucinex, Mucinex DM)
- Decongestants (Allegra-D, Sudfaded PE, Saline Nasal Spray)
- Cough meds (Robitussin, Delsym, cough drops)
- Sore Throat Spray
- Menstrual Relief tabs (Cramps tabs, Midol)
- Eye drops (Lubricating, Allergy relief, stye ointment)
- Ear drops (Drying drops)
- Topical ointments (Hydrocortisone cream, Antibiotic ointments, First Aid Burning Cream, Antifungals)
- Laxatives (Dulcolax tabs, Dulcolax supp., Miralax)
- Lice Treatments
- Sleep (Melatonin 3mg/5mg) with prior parent approval
- Benadryl 25 MG
- Epipen, when available

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#### Permission for Services

I give permission for my child to receive health services provided by Wil Lou Gray medical staff. I give WLG permission to contact the persons named on this form in the event of an emergency. In the event parents or persons named as emergency contacts cannot be reached, the school officials are hereby authorized to transport my child to the nearest emergency room by EMS. I understand that I am responsible for all expenses associated with the emergency.

I give permission for my child to participate in mental health counseling, health screening, pregnancy testing, and drug screening as set forth by Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School policy.

I understand Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School health room policies for medication administration and HIPAA Privacy Act.

Permission is granted to exchange medical or other confidential information as necessary with my student's health care provider and the health care financing administration, its agents or other agents needed

#### Parent/Guardian Permission for Services Signature

*Please Select*

*Parent/Guardian Signature*

*Signature Date*

#### Birth Certificate

For your convenience, you may OPTIONALLY upload your student's birth certificate here. **Please note:** If you do not provide the correct documents, you will be asked to provide them in person.

*Birth Certificate*

NO DOCUMENT UPLOADED

#### Social Security

For your convenience, you may OPTIONALLY upload your student's Social Security card here. **Please note:** If you do not provide the correct documents, you will be asked to provide them in person.

*Social Security*

**Guardianship Papers**

For your convenience, you may OPTIONALLY upload your student's guardian papers (if applicable) here. **Please note:** If you do not provide the correct documents, you will be asked to provide them in person.

*Guardianship Papers*

**School Records**

For your convenience, you may OPTIONALLY upload your student's school records here. **Please note:** If you do not provide the correct documents, you will be asked to provide them in person.

*School Records*

**Legal Records**

For your convenience, you may OPTIONALLY upload your student's legal records (if applicable) here. **Please note:** If you do not provide the correct documents, you will be asked to provide them in person.

*Legal Records*

**Medical Records**

For your convenience, you may OPTIONALLY upload your student's medical records here. **Please note:** If you do not provide the correct documents, you will be asked to provide them in person.

*Medical Records*

**Special Education Records**

For your convenience, you may OPTIONALLY upload your student's Special Education records (if applicable) here. **Please note:** If you do not provide the correct documents, you will be asked to provide them in person.

*Special Education Records*

**Additional Records**

For your convenience, you may OPTIONALLY upload additional records (if applicable) here. **Please note:** If you do not provide the correct documents, you will be asked to provide them in person.

*Additional Records*

**Immunization**

For your convenience, you may OPTIONALLY upload your student's Immunization record here. **Please note:** If you do not provide the correct documents, you will be asked to provide them in person.

*Immunization Record*

**Physical**

For your convenience, you may OPTIONALLY upload your Physical here. **Please note:** If you do not provide the correct documents, you will be asked to provide them in person.

*Physical*

**Digital Release of Confidential Information**

It is requested that any professional information you have regarding the following applicant be released to the WilLou Gray Opportunity School. This includes any psychological reports, Individual Education Plans, medical reports, psychiatric evaluations, psychiatric hospital records, school transcripts, DJJ Evaluations, legal status documentation and other pertinent information that schools, counselors, or doctors may have.

I understand my refusal to consent to the release of the information specified above will prevent disclosure of such information to the Opportunity School, thereby removing my application from consideration or causing my dismissal from the program.

**Student Signature**

*Please Select*  
*Student Signature*  
*Signature Date*  
SSN

**Parent/Guardian Signature**

*Please Select*  
*Parent/Guardian Signature*  
*Signature Date*

- b) **ECSC Request:** What is the school's admission's policy? What specific criteria are used to select students?

**(WLGOS)** 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.

Specific criteria used to select students:

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

- c) **ECSC Request:** What is considered an "extreme criminal background"?

**(WLGOS)** Criminal sexual conduct and felonies

### III. MARKETING

- a) **ECSC Request:** Provide a copy of the school's marketing or outreach plan.

**(WLGOS)**

#### **EXECUTIVE MARKETING SUMMARY**

Since 1921, the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School (WLGOS) has sustained its rich history as the state's original leader in alternative education; soon to commemorate nearly 100 years of successfully serving the state's undereducated populations. Over nearly a century, the school has diversified programs and services in order to continue attracting and serving those in need. This marketing blueprint for the Opportunity School is strategically designed to target the Palmetto State's most vulnerable at-risk youth, ages 16-19, as aligned with the agency's objectives of attracting young people who have dropped out or at-risk of dropping out of school. This plan is designed based upon empirical data, a diversity of successful strategies implemented during the school year, and new strategies planned for the current year. Even more recent, one basic method of outreach is and continues to be word of mouth, in certain instances enrolling siblings (during various sessions) from the same families for which the WLGOS "brand" of program has proven very successful. The plan incorporates a variety of channels with which to expand reach to a broad-based constituency.

Today's young people are under enormous pressures to succeed and yet face many daily obstacles that discourage them from moving forward with personal goals.



Distractions including peer pressures, the increasing draw of gangs and illegal activities, personal anxieties and learning difficulties, family/community hardships, and regular school environments are not conducive. On a beautiful 87-acre campus, students are given individual attention, and discipline and expectations are clearly defined.

Agency primary goals include:

- a. Contact students and parents/guardians/family authority figures and members of the faith community interested in a viable, caring alternative education environment for at-risk youth ages 16-19 (minimum 175 students accepted per session, 140 students enrolled per session)
- b. Ensure the school's unique and proven "brand" is featured in each medium
- c. Continue developing new community partnerships
- d. Continue local community outreach opportunities with such as school districts and faith community
- e. Attend a minimum of four markets/conferences that provide face-to-face marketing opportunities with key decision makers
- f. Maintain a viable internet site that allows interface and expedites the application process
- g. Utilize billboards in key locations to highlight the school's graduates

#### **TARGET MARKETS**

- SC youth ages 16-19 who have dropped out or at risk of dropping out
- SC youth at risk of being retained in their current grade in school
- SC youth facing home/community obstacles prohibiting completion of life/school goals

#### **PROSPECTIVE MARKETS**

- Family members/guardians of at-risk population ages 16-19
- School districts, administrators and guidance counselors
- Faith community
- Former students/graduates
- Conference attendees (SCASA, Palmetto State School Counselor's Association, SC Counselor's Association)
- Technical Colleges
- Military
- State agencies such as SC DJJ, SC Vocational Rehabilitation, Mental Health, DSS

## ANALYSIS

Having carefully analyzed the agency's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, the Opportunity School retains a strong presence throughout South Carolina, the state legislature, school districts, and local communities. Partnerships with key stakeholders are being established to advantageously further awareness of the school's offerings - despite the growth in seemingly similar programs now available on line, through home schooling, military academies, charter schools, nonprofits and such.

Wil Lou Gray is renowned for its caring, state-certified teachers, award winning JROTC program and dedicated staff. The school's graduates and their families are the greatest "marketing returns". Testimony after testimony from graduates and their families are indicative that the WLGOS "brand"... the safe, caring environment provided at Wil Lou Gray incorporating consistent discipline, focus, and strategic learning works. WLGOS is changing lives and families! Helping to change the economic picture of South Carolina, each graduate becomes a productive member of society usually entering the workforce, post-secondary enrollment, or becoming a member of the United States Armed Forces. The school now has a unique software method for determining a student's full viability once enrolled.

Legislatively, the school is grateful for the support provided that allows for such as qualified personnel and training, facilities and grounds maintenance, and installation of up-to-date classroom technology. Thus it is believed that achieving the agency's goals can be achieved with the recommendations put herewith.

## SWOT ANALYSIS

### STRENGTHS

- Established 1921, rich history as alternative education provider
- Strong state/community support
- Strong legislative support
- Graduates & Families
- Caring, dedicated state certified teachers/staff
- Reputation as fiscally conservative
- Beautiful historic 87-acre campus
- Modern state-of-the-art facilities

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Increase market share through expanded and diverse social mediums
- Expand market share through more on-campus activities
- Update marketing materials
- Optimize Facebook page and website

### WEAKNESSES

- ✚ Folks and communities still don't know about WLGOS
- ✚ Not situated to address the growing need for interested applicants ages 15 and younger

### THREATS

- ✚ Increase in online K-12 tuition-free programs, home schooling, magnet and charter schools, military academies, independent private schools, various GED programs (WIA, Christ-Central Ministries), TARA HALL, SC Youth Alternative
- ✚ More applicants with gang affiliations
- ✚ More applicants indicating special mental health challenges that WLGOS is not qualified to handle

## **MARKETING STRATEGIES**

Mass Mailer to Prospective Markets (pre-session)

- Director's Letter/Brochure/Envelope/Postage
- Quarterly (35,000 pieces)

Mass Mailer to Schools

Quarterly Surveys

- Follow up most recent session - GED graduates
- Emails to non-graduates from previous session

Billboards (23 4x annual)

February/May/August/October

Radio

February/March/May/June/August/September/October/November

Television (key broad markets)

Friday Night Football (Charleston/Upstate)

Internet Advertising

School's Web Site, Application Page & Facebook Page (up-to-date & viable)

Facebook Advertising

Trade Shows

- SCASA
- Palmetto State School Counseling Association
- SC Counselors Association

Community Presentations & Campus Activities

Measurement/Evaluation\*

(\*Marketing plan remains a work in progress and is fluid depending on application stream per session. As needed, adjustments to plan are continually made; proposed budget \$241,000.)

- b) **ECSC Request:** What is the cost per admitted student for each marketing strategy (e.g. number of students indicating learning about the school from a billboard divided by cost of the billboards)?

(**WLGOS**) In Fiscal Year 2017-2018, the agency implemented a variety of advertising methods. Mediums were not tracked separately on applications. Applicants however had the option to indicate – “Advertising”. Based on 2017-2018 indications, 12% (43) of accepted students indicated on the application they learned about the school through “Advertising” - cost per student \$5,694. Word of mouth currently is the school’s best form of “advertising”; 48% of applicants indicated “word of mouth” to be the method by which they learned of WLGOS. During the interview process, Wil Lou Gray has now begun to track more carefully methods by which applicants learn of Wil Lou Gray. More precise data will be available in the near future.

TYPE	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
<b>RADIO</b>	<b>\$52,667</b>
<b>TELEVISION</b>	<b>\$160,983</b>
<b>BILLBOARDS</b>	<b>\$23,448</b>
<b>PRINT</b>	<b>\$4,800</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$241,898</b>

IV. **ACADEMICS**

- a) **ECSC Request:** What is the expulsion rate?  
 b) **ECSC Request:** What is the withdrawal rate?  
 c) **ECSC Request:** What precipitates an expulsion?

(**WLGOS**) The expulsion and withdrawal rate for the last three years are shown in the following chart:

	Medical /Health Withdrawal	Student/Parent Withdrawal	Expulsion for Disciplinary Reasons
<b>2016-17</b>	7	72	30
<b>2017-18</b>	4	52	34
<b>*2018-19</b>	7	45	5

\*Current year with fluid data.

**(WLGOS)**

- Excessive accumulation of minor disciplinary offenses
- Refusing to participate in disciplinary program multiple times
- Disrespectful behavior/misconduct that is uncontrollable and dangerous to self or others
- Possession of any weapon, or using any item as a weapon
- Physically assaulting a staff member or student
- Possession of illegal drugs

**V. BOARD TRAINING**

**ECSC Request:** Does the board training include guidance on the operation of a state agency (e.g. procurement procedures or state human resources)?

**(WLGOS)** Board training includes very precise information on the roles and responsibilities of each board member. Under the leadership of the board, the agency director assumes responsibility for agency operations in accordance with Board policies. As the board is primarily responsible for establishing the agency's mission and vision, developing policy and providing oversight, detailed training on specific administrative areas within the operation of a state agency are not conducted. Board members are provided an extensive, up-to-date Board policy manual which includes comprehensive sections on fiscal management and personnel. A follow-up session for additional training will be conducted at the August board meeting.

**VI. YOUTH CHALLENGE COMPARISON**

**ECSC Request:** Distinguish Wil Lou Gray from the SC Youth ChalleNGe Academy. A starting point might be Youth ChalleNGe website and the information provided to the Committee during the study of the Adjutant General's Office. Points of comparison include, but not limited to, curriculum, goals, students/country, cost/student, GED completion rates, and student type served.

**(WLGOS)** The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School and the SC Youth ChalleNGe Academy serve a similar population of constituents throughout the State of South Carolina in regards to serving 16-19 year old at-risk students who are not experiencing success in the traditional educational setting. Our program as well as theirs focuses on preparing students for obtaining a GED credential, improving social and behavioral skills, providing pre-vocational training, and transitioning to adulthood as they exit their teen years.

In comparison of the two programs, the similarities end with the population served and the differences begin with the high success rate of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. After reviewing the data obtained from the SC Legislative Oversight Committee’s Study of the Adjutant General’s Office, several large differences were apparent when comparing the data submitted by the SC Youth ChalleNGe Academy and that of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. The largest noticeable difference is the number of GED credentials issued over a four year period, the second is the rate of completion of students accepted, and the third being the number of students served within an academic school year in the respective programs. The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School is proud to compare our successes to theirs in the first table, “**Comparable Program Profiles 2013-2017**”.

Aside from the great success of the academic and residential programs of Wil Lou Gray providing life changing experiences for at-risk students, it should be noted that in a cost comparison of the two programs that serve the same population, the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School operates a program that is more cost effective as shown in the second table below, “**Comparison of Per Pupil Cost for 2016-2017**”.

### **Comparable Program Profiles 2013-2017**

	<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>Completions</b>	<b>GED Credentials</b>
<b>Wil Lou Gray</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>1159</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>*SC Youth ChalleNGe</b>		339	271	225	164	39
<b>Wil Lou Gray</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>*SC Youth ChalleNGe</b>		332	270	232	185	29
<b>Wil Lou Gray</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>1342</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>*SC Youth ChalleNGe</b>		512	395	315	208	82
<b>Wil Lou Gray</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>1229</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>*SC Youth ChalleNGe</b>		1043	350	322	227	102

\*Information collected from the SC Legislative Oversight Committee’s Study of the Adjutant General’s Office, November 2017.

## Comparison of Per Pupil Cost for 2016-2017

	Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School	SC Youth ChalleNGe
Cost for Year	\$5,432,687	5,285,269
Number of GED's	201	102
Cost Per Student Credential	\$27,208	\$51,816

<sup>1</sup> Information for Youth ChalleNGe Academy from the PowerPoint Presented on November 20, 2017 to Executive Subcommittee of the Legislative Oversight Committee

<sup>2</sup> Per the Organizational Chart contained in the November 20 presentation, the Academy does not have an Educational Component.