

1.) What percentage of WLGOS students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) successfully obtain a GED? What percentage of WLGOS students with 504 plans successfully obtain a GED? How do these figures compare to mean and median percentages of special education student GED success rates in South Carolina?

**RESPONSE:**

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School successfully helped 11 students with 504/ADA accommodations and students with an IEP obtain a GED in the 2017-18 school year. Fifty two percent of the 504/ADA students who completed the program obtained a GED and fifty three percent of students who completed the program with an IEP obtained a GED. We can find no published data of mean and median percentages of special education success rates in SC in relation to the GED. However, somewhat comparable data that the State of South Carolina reported at ed.gov in 2014-15, where the Regulatory Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate with Children with Disabilities in SC was at 49%. The SC average is considerably lower than the 80% graduation rate of all students in SC in that same year. A link to the data can be found at <https://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm/state/SC/>

2.) Please provide the correlation between GED scores and ACT scores. Please provide the correlation between GED scores and SAT scores.

**RESPONSE:**

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School academic department uses the Accuplacer Correlation Chart to determine readiness for post secondary assessments. All of our students participate in the TABE test, but only a few participate in SAT, ACT, ASSET and COMPASS post secondary placement testing. We do not keep statistics based upon the few that attempt these post secondary placements but we do share with our students who have the aspirations of attending post secondary institutions the following correlation chart so that they may better understand where they should anticipate to place on such named national assessments based upon their post TABE results. Attached is the link to the correlation instrument chart.

<https://wvde.state.wv.us/abe/documents/CorrelationBetweenVariousPlacementInstruments.pdf>

3.) Working with the Department of Mental Health, provide the numbers of crisis counselors and social workers South Carolina public schools employ or contract with, by school district.

**RESPONSE:**

As the Opportunity School does not possess this information, the agency contacted the SCDMH Community Mental Health Services and the Department of Education's Office of Governmental Affairs who provided the following information. The list below provides the number of Master's-prepared school mental health clinicians embedded by county. This number can change daily as staff are hired or terminated. Their function is to serve students in the schools in which they are embedded and, although they are not classified as crisis counselors, they can attend to crises as needed. There are 2250 guidance counselors and 550 social work counselors employed throughout the public schools.

South Carolina Department of Mental Health School Based Reporting  
SFY 19

County	# Of Schools With MHC Staffing	Total # Of Schools By County*	% Of Schools With MHC Staffing By County*
Abbeville	6	10	60.0%
Aiken	5	45	11.1%
Allendale	3	3	100.0%
Anderson	21	56	37.5%
Bamberg	0	6	0.0%
Barnwell	11	12	91.7%
Beaufort	23	38	60.5%
Berkeley	17	48	35.4%
Calhoun	1	3	33.3%
Charleston	78	90	86.7%
Cherokee	15	20	75.0%
Chester	9	13	69.2%
Chesterfield	7	16	43.8%
Clarendon	11	13	84.6%
Colleton	3	9	33.3%
Darlington	20	24	83.3%
Dillon	5	12	41.7%
Dorchester	32	33	97.0%
Edgefield	7	9	77.8%
Fairfield	2	9	22.2%
Florence	19	44	43.2%
Georgetown	13	20	65.0%
Greenville	96	115	83.5%
Greenwood	10	22	45.5%
Hampton	10	10	100.0%
Horry	12	57	21.1%
Jasper	2	5	40.0%
Kershaw	9	20	45.0%
Lancaster	9	23	39.1%
Laurens	15	17	88.2%
Lee	2	7	28.6%
Lexington	54	83	65.1%
Marion	13	14	92.9%
Marlboro	2	8	25.0%
McCormick	3	3	100.0%
Newberry	5	14	35.7%
Oconee	7	18	38.9%
Orangeburg	15	33	45.5%
Pickens	6	26	23.1%
Richland	27	86	31.4%
Saluda	0	5	0.0%
Spartanburg	41	79	51.9%
Sumter	13	27	48.1%
Union	6	8	75.0%
Williamsburg	10	13	76.9%
York	42	70	60.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>55.3%</b>

Mental Health Center	# Schools With MHC Staffing	# Of Active School Based Staff Positions**	# Of Vacant School Based Staff Positions**	Total # Of School Based Staff Positions**
Aiken	16	4	2	6
AOP	34	23	1	24
Beckman	46	19	4	23
Berkeley	17	13	1	14
Catawba	60	31	2	33
Charleston	110	65	3	68
Coastal	41	15	0	15
Columbia	31	10	6	16
Greenville	52	47	8	55
Lexington	52	26	2	28
Orangeburg	16	8	3	11
PeeDee	52	24	0	24
Piedmont	44	28	6	34
Santee	35	18	0	18
Spartanburg	62	20	3	23
TriCounty	14	5	2	7
Waccamaw	35	23	9	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>431</b>

\* Total school count generated by combining the South Carolina Department of Education's (SDE) school listing with schools reported by Community Mental Health Centers that were not included on the SDE list. Examples of additional schools not originally included in the SDE list include Alternative School Programs, schools sharing the same physical address, several early childhood programs, as well as some private schools.

\*\* Total, vacant, and occupied position counts subject to change frequently throughout the academic year.

Run Date=2/06/2019

4.) How many reports to the Department of Social Services have been made in each of the last three school years?

**RESPONSE:**

During the past three years, the Opportunity School has only reported one case to the Department of Social Services.

5.) Provide the written procedure for responding to a positive drug test.

**RESPONSE:**

Reasonable suspicion urine drug screens are conducted primarily for informative and not punitive reasons when there are observable signs and symptoms that lead to suspected substance use. This testing is at the discretion of the medical, counseling and residential departments.

Should this testing yield positive results, determination of consequences (such as but not limited to disciplinary platoon, referral, withdraw from the program) will be made by the medical, counseling and residential staff appropriate to the offense.

6.) How are extra-curricular activities funded?

**RESPONSE:**

The Opportunity School pays for equipment and registrations for activities and league play. The school's recreational specialist coordinates free off-campus activities, solicits donations of tickets for events and coordinates all on-campus recreational events.

7.) Provide concrete examples of Wil Lou Gray disseminating "information concerning practices that have proven to be effective in working with its students," per S.C. Code 59-51-20.

**RESPONSE:**

In accordance with S.C. Code 59-51-20...Effective practices the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School repeatedly provides include the agency's unique 14-week program housed on a beautiful 87-acre residential setting which eliminates daily distractions. Add to that the quasi-military structure, the supervision and discipline, and a concentrated academic system designed to accommodate each student's learning objectives - provided by state-certified caring instructors in modest-sized classrooms. Other effective means include a woven interface between the parents/ guardians/social workers, the healthcare and mental health counseling and residential programs which aid at-risk students in obtaining a quality remedial education. These practices are constantly disseminated in meetings and at conferences, in print and visually to the viewing public through the school's website (wlgos.org), agency marketing materials, and television and radio mediums. Annually, 150,000 mail pieces are distributed to households throughout South Carolina. Other, particularly significant outlets include the:

- \* Annual South Carolina Association of School Administrators Conference (1000+ attendees)
- \* South Carolina New School Principal's Conference (125 attendees)
- \* Annual Palmetto State School Counselor Association Conference (700 attendees)
- \* South Carolina School Counseling Association Conference (200-300 attendees)
- \* Berkeley County Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Administrators' Session (8 attendees)
- \* Aiken County DJJ Administrators (Includes Pardon Probation Parole & local law enforcement. (100 attendees)
- \* Olde English Consortium School Counselors' Conference (200+ attendees)
- \* Laurens School District 55 Counselors Session (30+ attendees)
- \* Department of Mental Health Regional Administrators' Conference (15 attendees)
- \* Greenville County School District Attendance Services and Drop-Out Prevention Collaboration (6 attendees)
- \* Continuum of dynamic partnerships which include the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Education, Lexington School District Two & Four, Richland 1, Midlands Technical College, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and a
- \* Community Services initiative - a requirement for each student while attending WLGOS.