

Agency Name:	Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School		
Agency Code:	H710	Section:	5



Fiscal Year FY 2026-2027

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS

(FORM B1)

For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
☐	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
☐	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
☒	Not requesting any changes.

NON-RECURRING REQUESTS

(FORM B2)

For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
☐	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
☐	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
☒	Not requesting any changes.

CAPITAL REQUESTS

(FORM C)

For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
☐	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
☒	Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS

(FORM D)

For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
☐	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
☐	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
☒	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Robert Collar	(803) 896-6474	collarr@wigos.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Kristen Shumpert	(803) 896-6483	shumpertk@wigos.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2026-2027 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
SIGN/DATE:	 9/9/25	 9/9/25
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Robert N. Collar	Mike Moss

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

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FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION

CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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AMOUNT	\$289,056
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	49 FTE's would be reduced from 1.0 FTE to 0.923 FTE 2 FTE's would be reduced from 0.923 FTE to 0.823 FTE 12 FTE's would be reduced from 0.823 FTE to 0.723 FTE
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Operating expenses would be cut to a bare minimum. We would have to shorten our Trimesters by a week. Academics, Medical, and Residential Services would all be impacted.
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What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	Operating expenses would be cut to a bare minimum, and Residential, Medical, and Academics staff will hae their salaries and hours cut by 7.7% or more. In addition, we would have to shorten the length of the trimester to compensate for lost hours. The other alternative would require us to release employees and possibly close a dorm. Therefore, we would have to reduce services either through time spent with the students or through the number served.
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Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS	We have upgraded all of our windows and lights to become more energy efficient. We contract for services in the cafeteria and maintenance to avoid excessive personnel costs. We have used these savings to pay for GED fees.
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What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

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FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Societal Cost of a High School Dropout
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	High school dropouts create a measurable and recurring economic burden on South Carolina’s taxpayers and society. Compared to graduates, dropouts are: • Less employable – They earn substantially lower lifetime wages, which reduces their state income tax contributions and increases reliance on public assistance programs. • More likely to need public services – Dropouts are statistically more likely to receive unemployment benefits, food assistance, housing subsidies, and Medicaid. • More likely to face incarceration – Research consistently shows that high school dropouts have a higher incarceration rate, placing additional strain on the state’s criminal justice and correctional systems. • More likely to experience poorer health – Increased reliance on publicly funded healthcare programs drives costs upward. Thus, every dropout represents not only a personal economic loss but also a societal cost in foregone tax revenue and increased expenditures in social services, healthcare, and corrections.
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What is the expected savings to South Carolina’s businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply: <table><tr><td>X</td><td>Repeal or revision of regulations.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Other</td></tr></table>	X	Repeal or revision of regulations.		Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.		Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.		Other
X	Repeal or revision of regulations.								
	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.								
	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.								
	Other								

METHOD OF CALCULATION	The societal cost is generally calculated using economic impact modeling that combines: 1. Earnings Differential o Estimate the lifetime income difference between a high school graduate and a dropout (nationally, about \$9,600 less per year per dropout). o Apply South Carolina’s average wage data to compute foregone tax revenue. 2. Public Assistance Usage o Use Department of Social Services and U.S. Census data on the likelihood of dropouts receiving assistance. o Multiply average annual benefit costs by the dropout population. 3. Criminal Justice Costs o Factor in the increased probability of incarceration.
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o Multiply the additional incarceration rate of dropouts by South Carolina's average annual incarceration cost per inmate.

4. Healthcare Costs

o Apply data from CDC and state health agencies regarding higher public healthcare expenditures for less-educated populations.

5. Discounting for Present Value

o Because the costs and lost revenues accumulate over a lifetime, economists use a present value calculation to express the lifetime cost of one dropout today.

- National Estimate: Each dropout costs society between \$250,000–\$300,000 over their lifetime.
- South Carolina-Specific Adjustment: Using state income averages and incarceration costs, the estimate is closer to \$280,000 per dropout.

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES

N/A

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION

The Federal Every Student Succeeds Act requires that schools increase their graduation rates. If the act could be changed to allow for a GED curriculum to count as graduation more school districts would be willing to refer students to our school.

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

SUMMARY

Based on the earning power of a GED and the number of students we have helped achieve their GED, the lifetime contributions total \$111,792,376 over a high school dropout. Our school remains committed to providing services to the underserved population of South Carolina. According to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDOE) we are one of the top GED producers in the state. We would like to help more of the high school age students. According to the 2016-2017 Dropout Report published by SCDOE, 5,351 students dropped out in that year. If school districts would refer to us, we could serve more citizens.

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?