

# Gray Collegiate Academy

**“It’s not college prep - it’s college”  
Taking High School Students to the Next Level**



## ***Mission Statement***

*Gray Collegiate Academy serves high school students in a safe, small, family centered environment who seek the opportunity and challenge of a rigorous curriculum, high academic standards, and elite athletics while earning up to two years of college credit while in high school.*

GCA prepares students to be an example of the Profile of the SC Graduate through providing world-class knowledge serving students in grades 9-12 using an honors curriculum for 9th and 10th grade that prepares students to transition into college dual enrollment curriculum for 11th and 12th grade. The comprehensive program development enables students to experience college rigor in a smaller class size with the advantage of a more direct/personalized approach to instruction. They are challenged to utilize world class skills through innovative and collaborative work with faculty and peers along with acquiring the critical thinking skills necessary to be a successful college and career ready citizen. Self-direction and work ethic are just a few of the life and career characteristics exemplified daily through the modified non-traditional high school schedule and extra-curricular integration offered in athletics, clubs and volunteer organizations.

By focusing our mission on visibility, accessibility, and academic excellence with our students, staff, parents, and community, we are able to provide a unique system of support that creates the incomparable Gray family experience.

We believe every day is a “Great day to be at Gray!”

# “Small, Safe and Family Centered”

**“Small”** - The small schools movement in the United States contends that many high schools are too large and should be reorganized into smaller, autonomous schools of no more than 400 students. Many private schools of under 200 share design features which draw upon the benefits of organizations of less than 200 people. In the public-school version of the Small Schools Movement, students may be given a choice of which small school they want to join. Each of the smaller schools would offer students a feeling of connectedness between students who share the same or similar interests with them.

Gray Collegiate Academy (GCA) is designed and built to accommodate 300-350 students. The design standard, consistent with the “Small Schools Movement” promotes a connection between students, which cascades into a connection with Faculty and Staff and subsequently a connection to the school.

**“Safe”** – As a result of our design, and the subsequent connection on a personal level our school is inherently safe. GCA is designed physically and philosophically to create an atmosphere and culture that insures the safety of students at the highest level, this is exemplified by the following: **GCA - 1 fight, 0 expulsions.**

**“Family Centered”** – GCA provides a unique and productive design which maximizes school time and opportunity. GCA utilizes a split schedule; 300 students in the AM session and 300 different students in the PM session. GCA feels strongly about the family unit and its influence on children. Most traditional high school students involved in extra-curricular activities do not reunite with their families until 8:00 – 10:00 PM. It is GCA’s goal to have the families reunited by 5:00 PM. GCA believes this reconnection will enhance family values and support the GCA commitment to be family centered.

## Gray Collegiate Academy

- **2018-2019 Overall Rating - Excellent (75)**
- **99.2% Graduation Rate**
- **99% Student Attendance Rate**
- **41% (48 out of 118) Seniors Graduated with High Honors**
- **91% of Gray enrolled college students passed and received credit for all their college courses**
- **72% of GCA Juniors and Seniors are enrolled as full-time college students (2 or more classes per semester)**
- **94 out of 118 Seniors graduated with either the Life, Hope or Palmetto Fellows Scholarships**
- **Graduating class was awarded \$3.9 million in academic and athletic scholarships**
- **Students earned over 2,625 college credits, saving GCA families over \$840,000 in tuition, textbooks and technology costs**

## School Safety Comparison

<b>Incidents of Physical Attack</b>		
Lexington Two		14
Gray Collegiate Academy		0
<b>Incidents of Threats of Physical Attack w/out Weapon</b>		
Lexington Two		135
Gray Collegiate Academy		0
<b>Students with in-school suspensions</b>		
Lexington Two		1705
Gray Collegiate Academy		0
<b>Students with out-of-school suspensions</b>		
Lexington Two		1288
Gray Collegiate Academy		31
<b>Students expelled</b>		
Lexington Two		84
Gray Collegiate Academy		0
<b>Incidents of bullying and harassment</b>		
Lexington Two		42
Gray Collegiate Academy		1

\*All safety data sourced from the state report card, SC Department of Education.\*

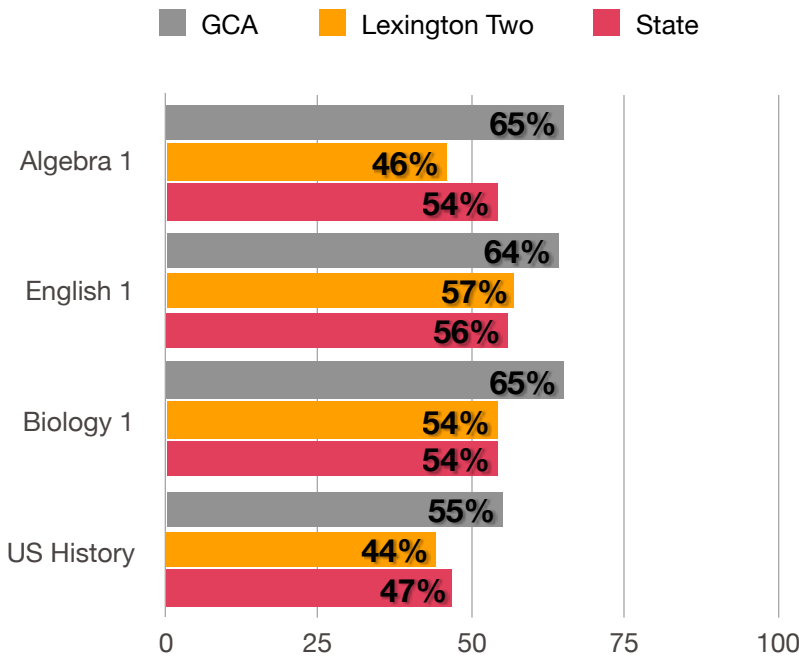
## 2020 Goals

	Statement of Need	Objective	Strategy
<b>Academic Performance</b>	During an analysis of 2019 data, specific standard weaknesses identified	On 2020 EOC assessments, GCA will increase the percentage of students that receive a C or better in all four EOC content areas by 10% and decrease the level 1 students by 10%	Create Student Learning Objectives goals by content teams to address specific knowledge gaps found through the standards data analysis
<b>Governance</b>	During the 2019 BOD evaluation of Pinnacle it was identified that communication with the BOD on operational issues needed to be improved	Pinnacle will develop a communication strategy designed specifically for the GCA BOD to address all perceived deficiencies	Create mission related committees at the school level. Each committee will include one member of the BOD and Pinnacle staff

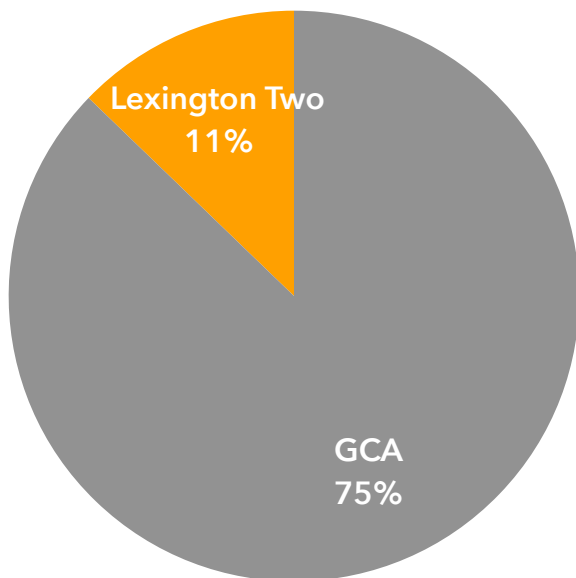
# “Rigorous Curriculum, High Academic Standards”

For the purposes of this report, GCA will be compared to the district within which it is geographically located (Lexington Two). However, it is worth noting that GCA's student body is made up of students from 14 school districts. The Academic Achievement indicator displays the end of course test results for the percentage of students scoring C or higher. All academic data sourced from the state report card, SC Department of Education.

## 2018-2019 GCA Academic Achievement Comparison

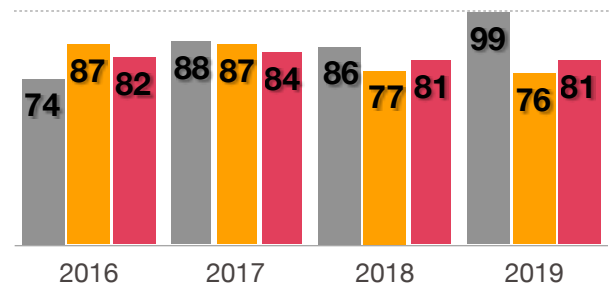


## Dual Enrollment Participation



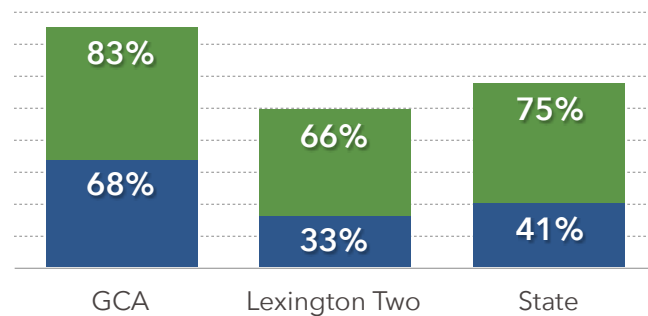
## Four Year Cohort Graduation Rate (%)

Legend: GCA (Grey), Lexington Two (Orange), State (Red)

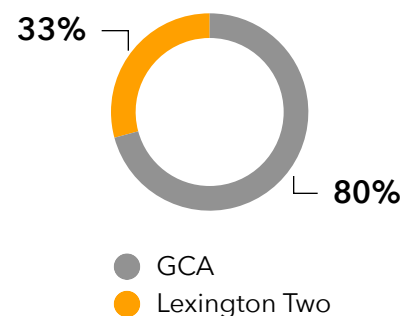


## Diploma Earners - College and Career Readiness

Legend: College Ready (Blue), College or Career Ready (Green)



## SAT Assessment Results Percentage of Students Tested



# “Elite Athletics”

## Gray Collegiate Academy

### 2018-2019 Highlights

#### Team

**10 Region Championships out of 10 sports offered**  
3 Lower State Title appearances  
**2 State Championships**

#### Individual

- 9 Region Players of the Year
- Class 2A Player of the Year
- 60 All Region Players
- 15 All-State Players
- Shrine Bowl Player in Football
- North-South Players in:
  - Football
  - Volleyball
  - Softball
  - Basketball
  - Soccer

#### Coaches

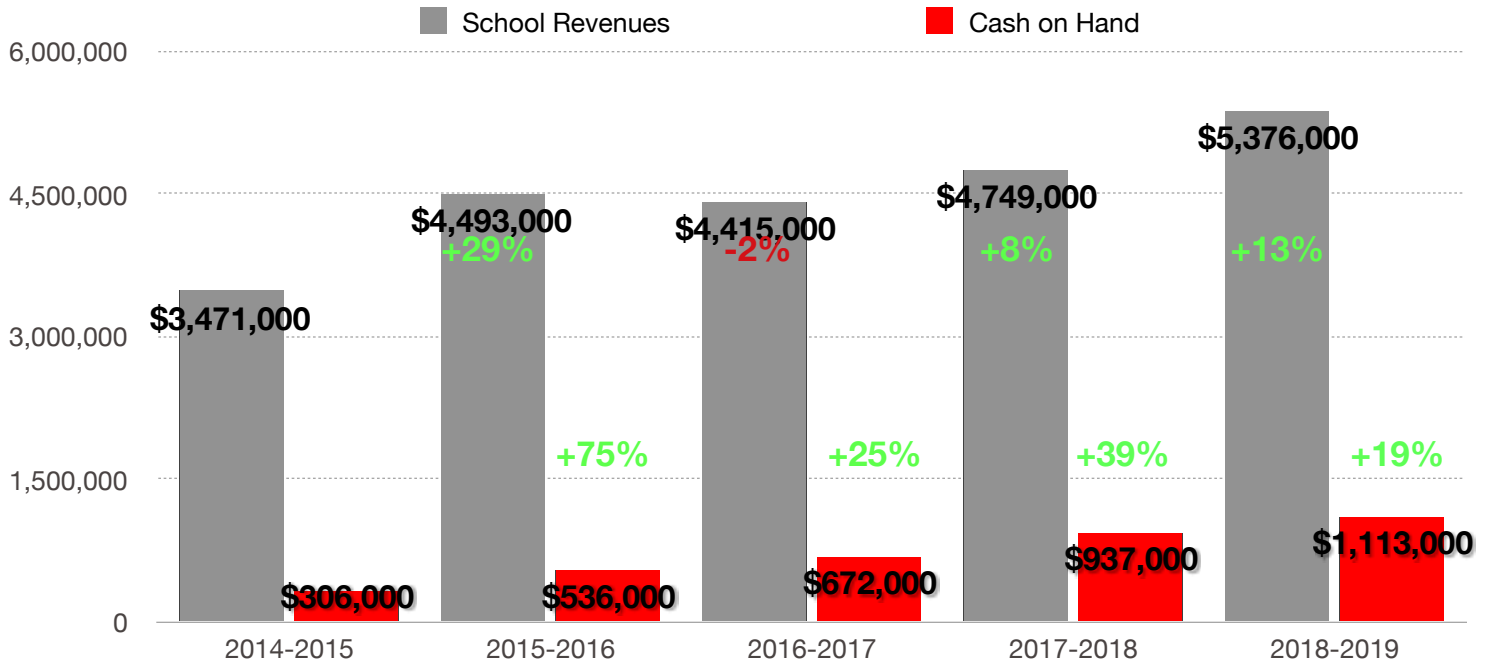
- **9 Region Coaches of the Year out of 10 Sports Offered**
- Class 2A Coach of the Year

#### Senior-Athletes

- 52% were either offered or accepted scholarships to play collegiate sports (National Average less than 6%)
- 13% were offered and accepted scholarships to a Division 1 school (National Average less than 3%)

# “Fiscally Responsible”

## GCA Financial Highlights

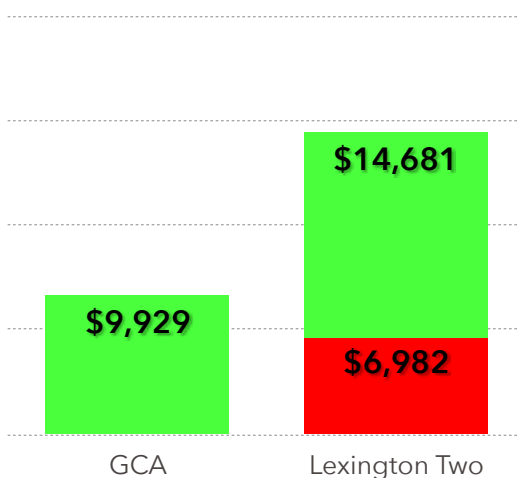


The above financial performance of our schools illustrates the sustainability of our financial model. Through effective cost controls and efficiencies provided in our model in the areas of occupancy and human resources, cash flow growth has consistently outpaced our growth in revenues. This has allowed the school's to quickly build cash reserves that promote long - term financial sustainability. As a result of our financial track record, GCA completed the purchase of the school facility in December, 2019 through the issuance of tax exempt bonds.

\*Source - Per Pupil Spending Revenue for Lexington Two sourced from the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

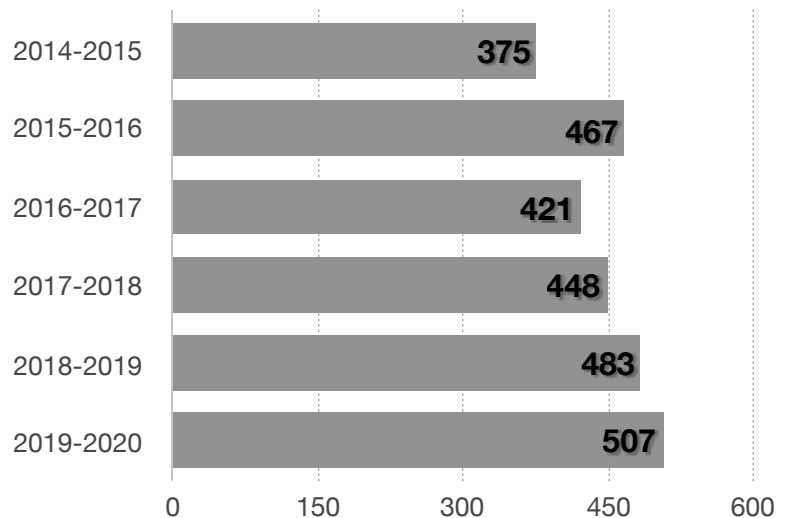
### Per Pupil Spending

Local Total



### Enrollment

GCA



## Testimonials

*"Gray has been a breath of fresh air for my family. Everyone is committed to the Child's excellence from teachers, coaches and administration. I strongly urge you to consider our school (family) for your child."* **(Katie Gandee- Beard)**

*"Love Gray and the smaller school feel. Would definitely recommend!"* **(Anonymous)**

*"Great staff and the best students!"* **(Jennifer Latham)**

*"Great school to learn with smaller class sizes and family feel. Elite sports programs also."* **(Jose Figueroa)**

*"The facility and staff of Gray is second to none. They are the very best at what they do and how they do it. Since the very first day we entered the doors at Gray Collegiate Academy, we knew how amazingly special they are here. Everyone we have met has been welcoming and caring. It's truly a pleasure to have somewhere our student is thriving and excelling."* **(Gwen Longino)**

*"I am very excited for my children which one attends already and the other will be attending next year. All of the staff and teachers are so pleasantly friendly. They make you feel like as a parent you could attend. lol (Just a thought)! But I met with Coach Adam Holmes who is a very personable and professional Individual. Dr. Newsome is a young vibrant Principal with a lot of knowledge and he truly cares for his students. I recommend Grays to any child who wishes to excel there College goals. You can't lose with Gray! Proud Parent TMG!!!! "* **(Matthew McMajic/Tony Gantt)**

*"In his first year at Gray our son has soared academically. We are glad we made the choice to move from a larger school to a smaller more specialized school offering dual enrollment classes. We would highly recommend parents to consider Gray."* **(Trevor Kinard)**

*"Outstanding in academics and sports. Earning college credits while in high school is a big plus. Gray has grown and made a name for itself in a very short time."* **(Ginger Stoudenmire)**

*"A family atmosphere that creates a great learning environment. Teachers, Coaches and staff are doing a great job with the students."* **(Lorenzo Lawrence)**

*"Small classes, great teachers and administrative staff. My daughter loves it at Gray!!"* **(Denise McCoy Henderson)**

## Summary

The GCA Annual Report starts and ends with our “Mission Statement”. While many companies and schools “identify” their mission statement, little is done to match the mission statement to school performance, culture, operations or evaluation.

### ***Gray Collegiate Academy Mission Statement***

*“Gray Collegiate Academy (GCA) serves high school students in a safe, small, family centered environment who seek the opportunity and challenge of a rigorous curriculum, high academic standards, and elite athletics while earning up to two years of college credit”.*

Safe – One fight and Zero expulsions in three years (remarkable).

Small - GCA is following the national small schools’ initiative. GCA is built for 600 students, 300 students maximum in each academic setting.

Family Centered – GCA recognizes the family unit as the focal point of student success and makes every effort to return the student to the family unit as soon as possible each day (5:00 PM). In addition, families save tens of thousands of dollars as a result of the GCA academic model and college credits earned while in high school.

Rigorous Curriculum, High Academic Standards – GCA continues to out score local districts, South Carolina Public Charter School District and South Carolina statewide academic performance criteria.

Elite Athletics – Fifty percent of GCA school athletes are likely to receive some type of financial support (scholarship) from Colleges or Universities as compared to the national high school rate of approximately 5%.

Fiscal Responsibility – GCA generates a substantial surplus (cash flow) each year to maintain its school. Fiscal sustainability and responsibility is critical to parents, students, community and our schools Local Education Agency Sponsor. In the past three years there have been NO deficiencies identified by an outside audit firm.

There is always room for improvement and GCA will strive to improve our service model each year. However, test data and circumstances change each year as new students repopulate the school.

This Annual Report demonstrates the successes we have achieved in fulfilling the mission of our school - both through its culture and climate and through the extraordinary efforts of our team members and students.