

EMERALD
SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

IMPACT REPORT

2025-26



Education through Faith, Fitness, and Fellowship

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

3

OUR PROGRAM

4

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

5

ACADEMIC IMPACT

6

RECOVERY IMPACT

7

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

8

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

9

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

10

OUR TEAM

11

CONTACT INFORMATION

12

2026



LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER



MARY FERRERI

Principal and Founder

Dear Emerald Family,

Every day, we have the privilege of witnessing something extraordinary: young people discovering that recovery means finding their way back to their dreams.

That is possible because of you.

Your generosity and belief in our students allow Emerald to be more than a school. Together, we have created a safe, sober, and supportive community where teens can learn, heal, grow, and begin imagining what comes next.

This past year, we had the honor of walking alongside 52 students and their families. Since opening our doors in 2019, half of the students we have served have celebrated a year or more of continuous sobriety while working their recovery plans.

Behind every number is a story.

A student walking through our doors with a renewed sense of hope. A family finding support after months or years of uncertainty. A young person discovering their strengths, reconnecting with their education, and beginning to believe in their future again.

That is the impact of Emerald.
And that is the impact of this community.

As we celebrate our seventh year, I am deeply proud of how far we have come. But I am even more inspired by what lies ahead: Reaching more students and changing more lives.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Mary Ferreri
Founder & Principal
Emerald School of Excellence

138

students served

80%

average retention rate

62

Emerald alumni



OUR PROGRAM

Mission:

Provide quality education in a recovery-friendly environment to teens with substance use and mental health challenges.

Vision:

We strive to strengthen the continuum of care for teens by serving as a resource to support them in pursuing substance use and mental health recovery.



Academics



Recovery



Community

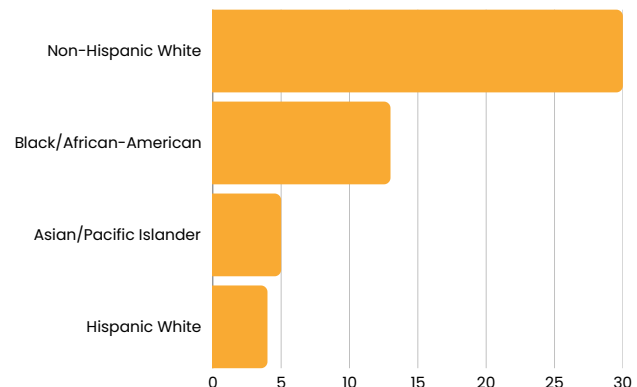


Purpose

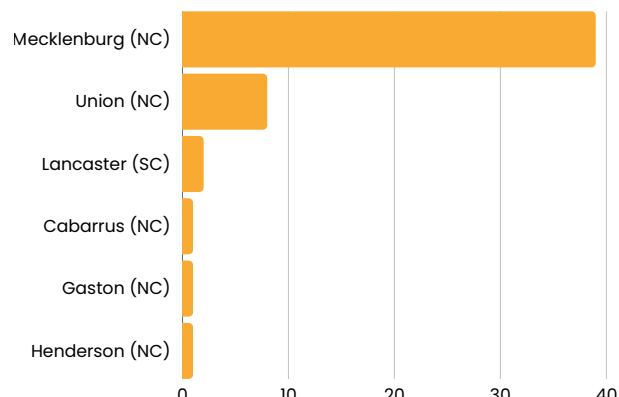
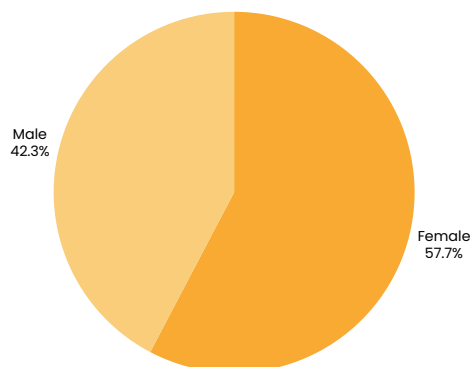


STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Emerald School of Excellence serves high school students ages 13 to 21 who are striving to stay on a path of wellness and self-improvement. Students are committed to remaining sober and working on their recovery through pursuing therapy, support meetings, or other local resources. Our unique approach provides support and accountability to help teens thrive.

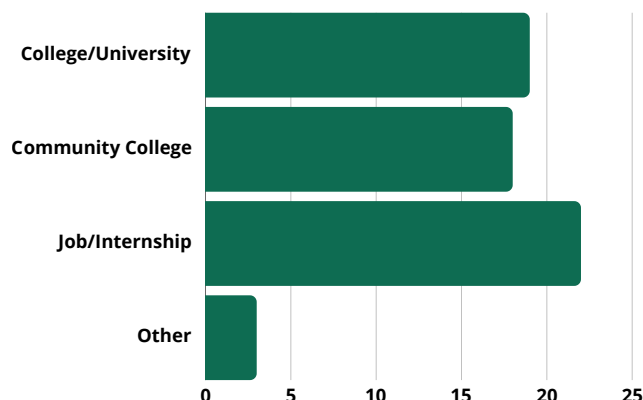


Students attend Emerald from counties across North and South Carolina from many diverse referral sources including treatment centers, therapists, and schools. Our goal is to create a recovery-friendly community welcoming for any teen who needs support taking the next step towards working on their recovery.



ACADEMIC IMPACT

Alumni Next Steps:



Building Brighter Futures:

- **Individualized Education Plans:** We tailor our approach to your needs and learning style.
- **College and Career Readiness Resources:** Prepare for your future with dedicated college and career planning guidance.
- **Supportive and Caring Environment:** Feel empowered in a safe and encouraging community.
- **Small Class Sized:** Receive instruction in an intimate setting designed for student success.
- **Recovery-Informed Education:** Get the support you need to thrive academically and maintain your recovery journey.



3.21

average Emerald graduate
weighted GPA

3.07

average Emerald graduate
unweighted GPA

“

When I first came out of high school, my GPA was a 0.8. When I left Emerald School, my GPA was a 2.0. Emerald School really works.

Emerald School of Excellence Student, Class of December 2025

”

RECOVERY IMPACT



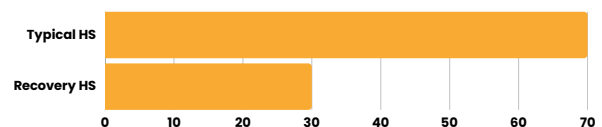
I didn't think I would ever get sober. Coming into an environment where people also thought they would never get sober, but they had two years or three years sober, it kind of lit the fire under me that I could do this, too.

*Emerald Student,
Class of June 2026*

Holistic Support:

- **Personalized Support Plan:** We'll create an individualized plan that outlines your personal goals for recovery.
- **Dedicated Recovery Staff:** Recovery Support Staff available throughout the day to offer guidance and support.
- **Regular Check-Ins:** Meet one-on-one every three weeks to discuss progress and collaboratively set new goals.
- **Supportive Community:** Morning and afternoon recovery groups provide a safe space to connect and learn from each other.
- **Open Communication:** Collaborating with families and external support providers to create a strong support network.

Return to Use by Type of School Environment



71%

of Emerald School of Excellence students remained sober for the 2025-2026 school year - about an 11% increase from the previous school year.

49%

of Emerald students served reached a year or more of continuous sobriety.



FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM



79%

of families received financial assistance

37%

of families received a partial scholarship

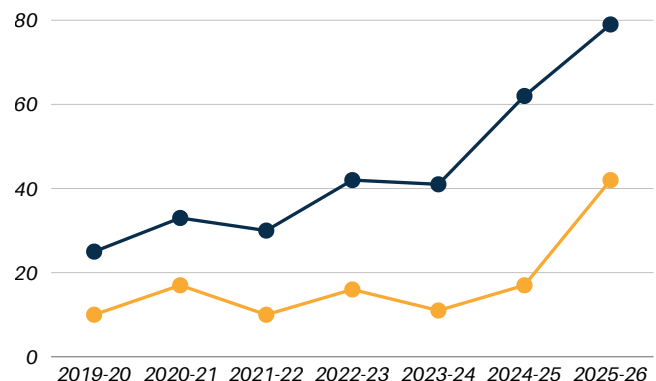
42%

of families received a full scholarship

Making Emerald Accessible:

At Emerald School of Excellence, we understand that the cost of recovery and education can be a significant concern. We believe that financial limitations should not prevent deserving students from pursuing their recovery journey and academic goals. To ensure that finances do not serve as a barrier for potential families, we strive to provide financial aid to over 24% of our students each academic year, the national average for all private schools. **Since we opened our doors in 2019, we have not had to turn a single family away due to financial need.**

Our Financial Aid Fund removes barriers for potential families in need, allowing more teens access to a Recovery High School education. **The generous support of our Financial Aid Fund provided forty-one students with financial assistance this past school year, twenty-two of whom received a full scholarship.**

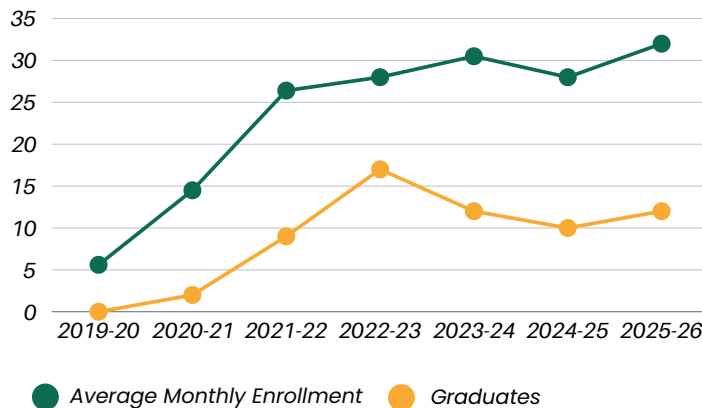


● % of Students Receiving Aid ● % of Students on Full Scholarships

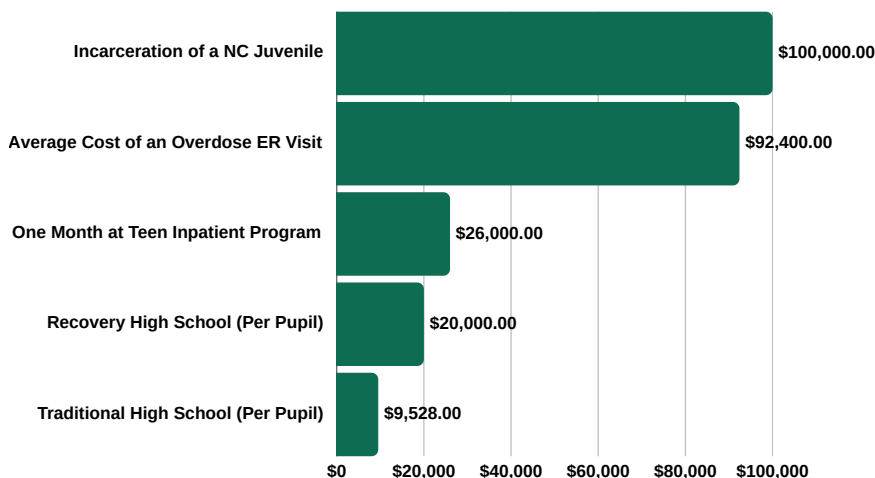
COST-BENEFIT OF A RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL

Educating a student at Emerald School of Excellence costs about twice as much as in a traditional public school—but only a fraction of the cost of juvenile incarceration or emergency care for an overdose. By helping teens avoid both, **Recovery High Schools (RHS) like Emerald School of Excellence not only change lives but also save taxpayers significant dollars.**

Enrollment Growth:



Cost-Benefit Analysis of a RHS:



By helping 68 students reach a year or more of continuous sobriety, Emerald School of Excellence may have saved our state millions of dollars in emergency room visit costs alone. **As enrollment grows, Emerald School of Excellence will continue to save taxpayer dollars.**

Supporting Recovery High Schools like Emerald not only gives teens the tools to recover and graduate, it also saves taxpayers significant resources turning potential tragedy into hope and a brighter future.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2025 Income:

Emerald School of Excellence is funded in part through tuition, which is determined on a sliding scale based on each family's financial need. Most families receive aid to cover some or all of the cost.

Because tuition covers only a portion of our annual expenses, **we depend on the generosity of donors and the support of grants to bridge the gap and ensure every student has access to the education and recovery support they deserve.**

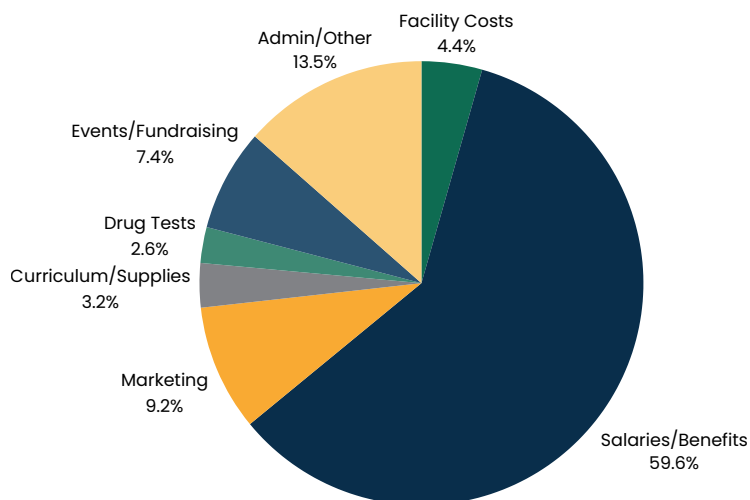
Tuition **16%**

State Grant **45%**

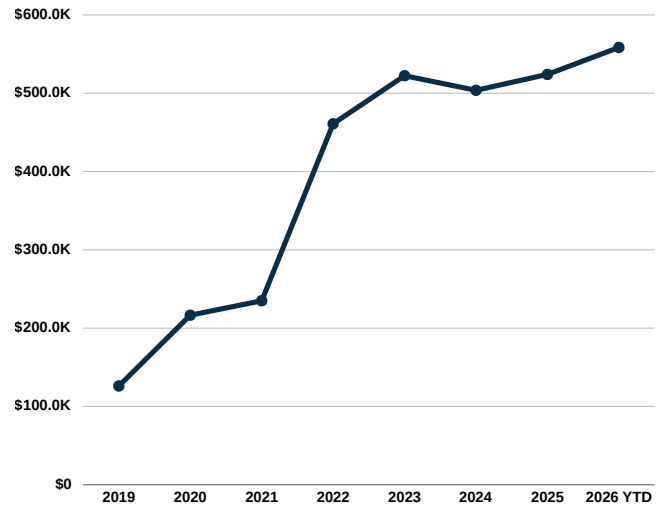
Fundraising **39%**

Program Expenses:

The **annual operating budget in 2025 was \$1,375,742.75**. Based on the actual expenses for 2025:



Annual Fundraising Growth:





OUR TEAM

School Staff:

Mary Ferreri
Principal, CEO, &
Founder

Gabby Wohlford
Assistant Principal
& COO

Rachael Wilson
Science & Lead
Teacher

Mac Harrison
Recovery Support

Cooper Miller
Recovery Support

Christina Ravesi
Recovery Support

Dylan Sprinkle
History Teacher

Allen Messer
Math Teacher

Sivonne Stone
English Teacher

Meghan Nance
Art Teacher

Jesse O'Sheal
Music Teacher

Board of Directors:

Heather Teasley
President

Fred Griffith
Vice President

Todd Bowman
Treasurer

Jamie Brooks
Secretary

Tate Ogburn
Board Member

Ward Blanchard
Board Member

Jim Boylan
Board Member

Lynn Barnhill
Board Member

Tim Stiene
Board Member

Brent Baker
Board Member

Britt Canady
Board Member

Nathan Burgess
Board Member

Deja Chisholm
Board Member

GET INVOLVED: DONATE, ATTEND, AND SERVE

Emerald School of Excellence is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on monetary donations to support our operations. Your support fuels hope and opportunity for our students. Give through **monetary or in-kind donations**—such as contributing to our Scholarship Fund or providing healthy snacks. Celebrate with us at our **annual Gala** each February and **Golf Tournament** each spring. Or **share your time and talents**—whether by serving on an event committee, stepping in as a volunteer substitute teacher, or inspiring students as a guest speaker. Every gift, every hour, and every shared story helps transform lives.



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