### WILLIE ROSS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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Longmeadow, MA 01106  
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<tr>
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#### Populations Served
Deaf, Deaf w/Choclear Implants, Hearing Impaired, Language Impaired

#### School Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment:</th>
<th>M/F</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age Range Served:</td>
<td>3 - 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age at Admission:</td>
<td>3 - 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program:</td>
<td>Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff/Pupil Ratio:</td>
<td>2:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Months Open:</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Days Open:</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Enrollment:</td>
<td>65</td>
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#### Admissions Procedure
Willie Ross School serves deaf/hard of hearing and language-impaired students, ages 3-22 years, who reside in western Massachusetts. Referrals are made by Local Educational Agencies. Admissions occur throughout the year.

#### Approval/Licensing/Accreditation
Chapter 766 Approved by Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

#### Affiliations/Membership
- maaps, American Society for Deaf Children
- National Association of the Deaf
- National Organization for the Advancement of the Deaf
- Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
- Council for Exceptional Children
- Springfield Chamber of Commerce

#### Programs and Services

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The Willie Ross School for the Deaf is a day school serving students with a hearing loss from ages 3 years through 22. The Willie Ross School for the Deaf offers two campuses to its students. A simultaneous method of communication (sign and voice together) serves as the language of instruction in all classrooms, from early childhood through high school. Related services are offered in the communication methodology which best responds to the needs of the individual student. The Longmeadow Campus provides programs to students from age 3 years through age 22 and is an immersion setting with deaf and hard-of-hearing students learning together. Our Early Childhood Program does admit a limited number of hearing children in order to provide an integrated setting with appropriate language models. The Longmeadow Campus provides opportunities for older students to be involved in community-based work study programs, and on-campus internships. This program is one component of our Transitional Services Department. The Partnership Campus is located directly in the East Longmeadow Public Schools at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The Partnership permits Willie Ross students to benefit both from programs offered by a school for the deaf and the opportunity for selected mainstream opportunities into academic classes offered by a public school. Sign or Oral Interpreters are used to provide access to the mainstream services. The determination of a campus placement is based upon the needs of the student and the campuses' capacity to meet those needs. A review of the placement is conducted at the conclusion of each academic year.

The school's curriculum is based upon the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and has been adapted in order to be appropriate for students with a hearing loss.

#### Location and Facilities

The Willie Ross School consists of the main campus in Longmeadow and the Partnership Campus in East Longmeadow. On the Longmeadow Campus are the Founders Classroom Building, the Furculo Student Center, the Edward B. Cooley Speech and Language Lab, the Sidney M. Cooley Administration Building, and the Curtis L. Blake Audiological Center. The Constance M. Breck Playground surrounds the school. The school has expanded with the completion of the West Campus grounds, which includes a playing field, a basketball court, a nature trail, outdoor classroom and an honor garden. The Partnership Campus in East Longmeadow is located in the elementary, middle, and high school buildings within the East Longmeadow Public School system. The Willie Ross School leases and staffs classrooms in each of those settings. All related services available at the Longmeadow Campus are delivered on an itinerant basis to the Partnership Campus.

#### History and Philosophy

The Willie Ross School was founded by parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children in 1967. The school was established as a direct result of the maternal rubella epidemic of the mid-1960’s. The founding parents wished to create a day placement for their children which was not available at the time. The philosophy of Willie Ross is to encourage children to use their academic abilities in order to become full and contributing members of their communities and of society. The Willie Ross School provides a variety of instructional approaches and learning environments through its dual-campus model. A simultaneous communication approach is used as the language of instruction. Educational audiologists monitor all aspects of amplification and audiometric testing on both campuses in order to support the full use of residual hearing. A Coordinator of Speech and Listening Services ensures appropriate spoken language, and related speech services are provided at both of our campuses. The classrooms on both campuses are designed to welcome students with a range of hearing loss to create a fully accessible and participatory educational environment. This is the legacy of the founding parents who wished to establish a school based not on philosophy, but upon student needs.