



411 Sycamore Ave.,
Mill Valley, California 94914

Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Goal 1 - Balanced Learners

Mill Valley School District's LCAP goal of creating an educational experience to support balanced learners is one that our community understands, as evidenced by the recent approval of [Measure G](#). Over the last few years communities have become increasingly aware that to balance expectations of achievement, there must be a much higher emphasis on ensuring our youth are given the tools to build a resilient social-emotional component into their repertoire.

For the last two years, MVSD has budgeted for one counselor dedicated to each [elementary school](#), and one per grade level at the [middle school](#), and the invaluable and positive lessons learned from this targeted Social Emotional Learning (SEL) has allowed extra focus on students that need additional pillars of support. Previously we budgeted for shared counselors at our elementary schools. In the LCAP for 2019-20, the district allocated \$906,310 for counselors and in 2022-23, the district is budgeted to spend \$1,184,120. This represents an increase of 30.65% over the past three years.



Unfortunately, with the statewide critical lack of qualified workforce, our counseling team is still in search of two counselors.

Recruitment efforts are ongoing, and have included working with staffing agencies, advertising at twelve Bay Area universities, posting on large online job boards, as well as offering competitive compensation packages.

Although this shortage has been challenging, the outlook for the future is definitely looking brighter due to an influx of state funding, specifically designated to entice larger numbers of qualified candidates to further their education and become credentialed school counseling staff. In November, a wave of newly-minted counseling professionals will be graduating and ready to embark on their new careers, and MVSD is ready and looking to hire two new counselors for our elementary schools.



Another bright spot in the future for Mill Valley's youth is the upcoming opening of the Wellness Center which will be located on the Middle School campus. On October 13th, the MVSD Board of Trustees will be asked to approve a job description for the position of "Wellness Center Specialist." Once approved, recruitment will begin, and ultimately the new Wellness Specialist will spearhead the on the ground work under the direct supervision of the Director of Student Services. The Wellness Center is a project that has been in the pipeline since December 2021 and is a collaboration between [SWELL Schools Well](#) and the MVSD staff. The Wellness Center will provide consistent, preventative and responsive mental health support, as well as being an amazing place of security and safety for all our students. Funding for this vital project is from the district's general fund, but also includes a donation of over \$11,000 from the 8th grade classes of 2020 and 2021.

This Friday Feature is provided weekly to help our stakeholders be more informed about the MVSD LCAP and the goals we have for our students. For more information about the LCAP goals please [visit our website here](#). If you would like to provide feedback or suggest a topic for our Friday Feature, please [submit your request here](#).