

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING & HEALTH

OVERVIEW

The Social Emotional Learning & Health area of the Mount Vernon City School District encompasses three interconnected departments under the Department of Student Personnel Services: Health and Wellness, Counseling, and Mental Health and Wellness. Together, these departments are committed to educating students holistically by addressing their physical, social, emotional, and mental health needs across all district schools.

The Health and Wellness Department ensures that every scholar receives state-mandated health services and access to community health resources, while fostering a culture of well-being that extends beyond the classroom. The Counseling Department provides students with personalized guidance in academic achievement as well as personal and social development, with a strong emphasis on early college and career awareness. The Mental Health and Wellness area works in partnership with the City of Mount Vernon and community agencies to ensure that students and families have access to mental health support and crisis intervention resources.

The district's vision is for all scholars in Mount Vernon to be recognized as model citizens equipped with the necessary skills to compete in a global society. Achieving that vision depends directly on every student's physical health, social-emotional development, and access to mental health supports.

SERVICES PROVIDED

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Health and Wellness Department administers state-mandated health services across all MVCSD schools, including immunization compliance tracking, vision and hearing screenings, medication administration, and referrals to community health providers. Scholars receive instruction in accordance with NYS and National Standards for Health Education, covering topics such as mental health, substance abuse prevention, nutrition, sexual health, and hands-only CPR.

The physical education program spans grades K through 12 and meets NYS and National standards. Elementary programs focus on motor skill development, spatial awareness, and social-emotional skills, while secondary programs emphasize lifelong fitness. The Department also coordinates access to the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, Montefiore Mount Vernon Hospital Mental Health Services, and a network of community mental health partners throughout the Westchester area.

COUNSELING

The Counseling Department provides K through 12 students with personalized guidance through a Comprehensive Guidance Curriculum aligned with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) national standards. School Counselors at every school deliver direct services including responsive services, individual and group counseling, crisis response, academic advisement, college and career planning, and parent engagement. Counselors also provide indirect services through collaboration, consultation, referral, leadership, and advocacy. A dedicated Substance Abuse Counselor is available district-wide to support students with substance-related concerns.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Mental Health and Wellness area connects students and families to a robust network of community agencies offering mental health counseling, crisis intervention, family counseling, psychiatric consultation, and behavioral health services.

FUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Funding for the Social Emotional Learning & Health area allows MVCSD to maintain a full complement of certified school counselors at every school, ensuring that every K through 12 student has access to a counselor as required by New York State regulations. This investment supports the delivery of academic, social-emotional, and college and career counseling services that address the development of the whole child.

Health and Wellness funding supports compliance with all NYS-mandated health screenings and immunization tracking, ensuring students are medically cleared to participate in school and extracurricular activities, including athletics. Funding also supports the district's partnership with the City of Mount Vernon and local mental health agencies, art therapy programming, staff and family yoga, and BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month resources.

Community mental health partnerships, including the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, WJCS, Montefiore Mount Vernon, The Guidance Center, and others, extend the district's capacity to serve students and families whose needs exceed what school-based staff alone can provide. These partnerships are free or low-cost to families, reducing barriers to access for the district's diverse, urban population.

PROGRAM EVALUATION ENSURING STUDENT OBJECTIVES MET WITH FUNDING ALLOCATION

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The MVCSD Counseling Department evaluates program effectiveness through ongoing data collection. Student outcomes are assessed using the following measures:

- Annual individual progress reviews
- Cohort tracking and graduation readiness log entries
- College and career platform activity data
- Course performance and grade monitoring
- Student, staff, and parent surveys and recommendations

Counselors use this data to ensure adherence to NYS mandates and to make timely adjustments to programming as needed.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS DEPARTMENT

The Health and Wellness Department evaluates compliance with NYS health mandates by tracking completion rates for vision and hearing screenings, immunization records, and mandated physical examinations. Families are notified when records are incomplete, and referrals are made to the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center and other partners as needed. Student participation in health services is monitored to ensure that all scholars receive required screenings and are cleared to participate in school activities and athletics.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Mental health program evaluation is supported by the district's partnerships with community agencies, whose services are monitored through referral tracking and community feedback. Student improvement is assessed through academic progress, behavioral indicators, and attendance, as well as qualitative feedback from families and staff regarding the overall well-being of scholars.

GOALS

GOAL 1: Health and Wellness Compliance

One hundred percent of MVCSD students in state-mandated grades will receive required vision and hearing screenings, and all students without a current physical examination on file will receive timely written notices each school year. The Health and Wellness Department will continue to ensure full compliance with NYS immunization requirements and will coordinate with community health partners to support students in need of referrals for follow-up medical, dental, or mental health care.

GOAL 2: College and Career Readiness

The Counseling Department will provide equitable access to college and career awareness for all MVCSD students through the implementation of the Comprehensive Guidance Curriculum, which addresses academic, social-emotional, and college and career development domains per ASCA standards. Counselors will work to increase individual student progress review completion rates for grades 6 through 12 and support post-secondary planning through partnerships, course advisement, and college exposure programs.

GOAL 3: Mental Health Stigma Reduction and Access

The district will ensure that all students, families, and staff are aware of and have access to the mental health and wellness resources available through the district and its community agency partners. Referral pathways to services such as the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, WJCS, and The Guidance Center will be clearly communicated to all school communities.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Social Emotional Learning & Health Department (District-Wide)

MVCS D 2026-2027 Budget Expenses (Appropriation)

as of 4/23/2026

By Function; By Object

Fund - A

FUNCTION	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	OBJECT DESCRIPTION	2024-2025 EXPENSED	2025-2026 ADOPTED BUDGET	2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ AMOUNT DIFFERENCE	% AMOUNT DIFFERENCE
2815	HEALTH SERVICES REGULAR SCHOOL	EQUIPMENT	0	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
2815	HEALTH SERVICES REGULAR SCHOOL	INSTRUCTIONAL SALARIES			0	0	
2815	HEALTH SERVICES REGULAR SCHOOL	MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	130	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
2815	HEALTH SERVICES REGULAR SCHOOL	NURSES PER DIEM - SALARIES	39,078	10,000	28,560	18,560	185.6%
2815	HEALTH SERVICES REGULAR SCHOOL	NURSES SALARIES	1,261,606	1,624,933	1,168,248	-456,685	-28.1%
2815	HEALTH SERVICES REGULAR SCHOOL	OVERTIME	2,948	5,000	2,000	-3,000	-60.0%
2815	HEALTH SERVICES REGULAR SCHOOL	PAYMENT TO OTHER DISTRICTS	446,863	650,000	650,000	0	0.0%
2815	HEALTH SERVICES REGULAR SCHOOL	PER DIEM SALARIES	17,898	500	3,060	2,560	512.0%
2815	HEALTH SERVICES REGULAR SCHOOL	STIPENDS	2,100		0	0	
2820	PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES REGULAR SCHOOL	INSTRUCTIONAL SALARIES	1,747,133	1,750,792	2,060,052	309,261	17.7%
2825	SOCIAL WORK SERVICES REGULAR SCHOOL	INSTRUCTIONAL SALARIES	1,822,133	1,827,716	1,539,370	-288,346	-15.8%
2830	PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES SPECIAL SCHOOLS	FOOD - MEETINGS - SUPPLIES			0	0	
2830	PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES SPECIAL SCHOOLS	INSTRUCTIONAL SALARIES	25,459	195,000	193,800	-1,200	-0.6%
2830	PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES SPECIAL SCHOOLS	MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	0	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
2830	PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES SPECIAL SCHOOLS	OVERTIME	3,886	8,000	0	-8,000	-100.0%
2850	CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES REGULAR SCHOOL	STIPENDS	31,250	115,500	0	-115,500	-100.0%
		TOTAL	8,038,199	8,599,090	7,927,585	-671,505	-7.8%

**Social Emotional Learning & Health Department (District-Wide)
Appropriation**

26-27 Proposed Social Emotional Learning & Health Budget Expenses

