

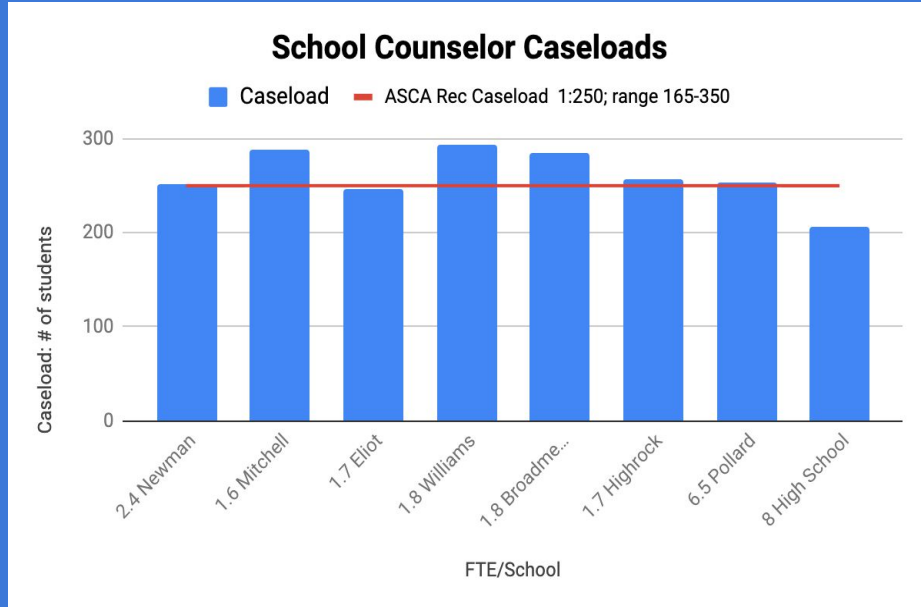


# Student Support Services FY24 Budget Request: Focus on School Counseling

**Needham School Committee  
January 3, 2023**



# Snapshot of Counseling Services



**ALL students have access to a school counselor**

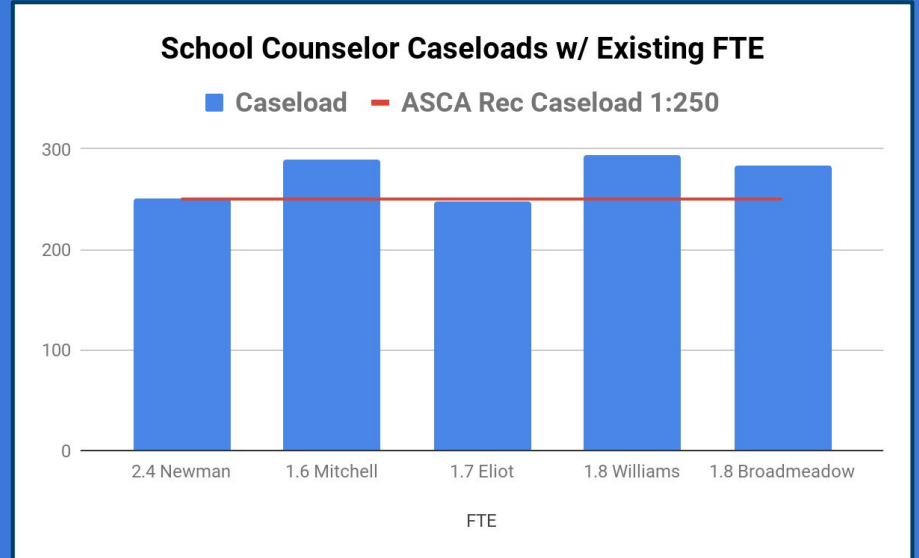
**Average caseload for a school counselor is 250 students**

**Adjustment counselors provide intervention services for approximately 350 students**

**53 students enrolled in District Therapeutic Programs (Connections, Pathways)**

# FY24 Budget Requests: School Counseling

- .5 FTE School Counselor to fund existing temporary FTE and address caseloads
- 1.0 Director of School Counseling Gr 7-12



# School Counseling is critical to student learning & growth

## *Academic development*

- Assist students to build the curiosity and academic skills needed to be the best learners possible.
- Assist students in personalizing their learning experiences

## *Career and college development*

- Provide accurate, comprehensive, and personalized guidance for postsecondary planning
- Prepare students for fast-changing workforce and expanding array of learning options available after high school





## *Social and emotional development*

- In collaboration with teachers, psychologists, nurses, special educators, to create a school climate that promotes healthy learning, living, and personal growth.
- Respond to students who are facing personal challenges and steer them toward appropriate services at school or in the community

## *Mental and Behavioral Health Support*

- Address the mental and behavioral health needs of all students through preventative and responsive classroom, school, and district-wide practices that are evidenced based, data informed, and universally designed
- Engage with families through ongoing communication, partnership, and education in support of positive mental and behavioral health
- Provide community outreach and partnerships with outside agencies that provide support and resources for families, students, and the school community





## Responsibilities of School Counselors include...

-  Implement a school counseling program that provides education, prevention and intervention for all students
-  Provide guidance & insight into child and adolescent development
-  Address the knowledge, attitudes and skills students need to acquire in academic, career, and social/emotional development, which serve as the foundation for future success.
-  Collaborate with teachers and parents on early identification and intervention of children's academic and social/emotional needs, which is essential in removing barriers to learning and developing skills and behaviors critical for academic achievement.

# **To meet student, family & staff needs the leadership model must meet the reality of a changing world**

- Increased mental and behavioral health needs
- Supports district strategic plan to launch a comprehensive system of mental health support that widens the mental health safety net for all students
- Supports the Portrait of a Needham Graduate by providing necessary leadership to advance equitable and innovative learning experiences for all students
- Builds consistent programming and capacity to prepare students for a rapidly changing workforce
- Strengthens family and community engagement to meet the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all students

# **It's time to restructure the existing guidance/counseling administrative model to meet contemporary needs**

-  **Opportunity to provide more coherence around programs and practices that support students academic, mental health, and SEL development as well as college and career planning**
-  **The Directors of School Counseling work in partnership to oversee and implement a cohesive program of school counseling**
-  **The essential functions of the roles are similar yet tailored to the unique developmental and educational needs of the levels assigned**
-  **The administrative structure takes into account increased needs at the secondary level and builds leadership & management capacity at both levels**

# **A restructured PreK-6 and Gr 7-12 administrative model addresses student needs in many ways**

- **Developmental needs at the different levels provide opportunity to tailor instruction, intervention, and support**
- **Course selection & need for academic counseling increases begin grade 7**
- **Balanced oversight when taking into account increased mental health needs Grades 7-12 and postsecondary planning aspects at the high school level**
  - **PreK-6 supports 6 schools, 2955 students, and 15 counselors**
  - **Gr 7-12 supports 2 schools, 2544 students, and 22 counselors**
  - **Higher Prevalence of mental health needs Grades 7-12**
  - **College and Career Readiness formalizes at the high school level**





Questions