

# Vallejo City Unified School District

## Background

CCEE and Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD) began working together through a joint request made by the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) and VCUSD in 2018. Additionally, in October of 2018, a statute was passed by the State Legislature (AB 1840) that restructured support for districts with outstanding state loans and automatically referred the district to the CCEE for technical assistance around their instructional systems. This update will focus on providing updates on the latest improvement cycle from **March 2023 to May 2023**.

## District Aim Statement

By June 2023, students will realize an achievement gain of at least nine points in literacy achievement as measured by a reduction in the Distance from Standard on formative and summative assessments. The VCUSD also effectively launched and directly supported the intensive support model work at Federal Terrace Elementary School beginning this school year.

## Progress Update

Progress on improvement outcomes has yielded limited positive results despite partner efforts. With support, VCUSD developed and is beginning to implement the VCUSD Professional Learning Plan to drive early literacy instruction through specific training in the Science of Reading. Realizing the intended outcomes from training will provide students with access to more rigorous expectations for literacy development. Staffing challenges for permanent and short-term vacancies complicates the district's ability to achieve student progress.

A bright spot in the Solano County Office of Education and Vallejo City Unified School District partnership is the support and implementation of District Wellness Centers in 2023. Student Wellness Center use data shows 439 elementary, 287 middle school and 239 high school students accessed services, with African American students visiting twice as much compared with peers, and 90% of all students reporting "improved feelings" after accessing Wellness Center services. More specific data related to student reason for visit and staff level of service will shed more light on what students are experiencing and how the district can meet the specific needs of students. Addressing the social-emotional needs of students is a strategy that is providing early positive results.

Current coaching efforts help focus cabinet and district leadership on concerted actions to drive the Professional Learning Plan. Leadership as a team effort is highly encouraged under this approach. Developing school staff to improve student literacy rates so every student can read by third grade will continue to be a primary driver of change and an accountability point for district leadership. There's a real opportunity to kick off the 2023-24 school year with a focus on early literacy as the building block for the Portrait of a Graduate in Vallejo.

District formative assessments are on track to measure progress, and efforts to increase participation rates will be two indicators of student progress that will be important going into the fall school year.

