Counseling Office

How does your department utilize PLCs and/or SLCs? Provide information on the makeup of each group including how often they meet, and a sampling of what is discussed/reviewed during these meetings.

We work closely as a department, have weekly meetings and align our regular tasks, but do not have a formal PLC or SLC

How is the department utilizing data, including surveys, assessment scores, etc. to inform curriculum design and decision making? Does the data suggest the implemented interventions are providing the necessary support to students who need them?

This is not really relevant to us, but we do use grade information for placement and referrals to intervention programs.

Elaborate on any new courses your department has added within the past 3 years. Please include the course title, a brief description, and other relevant information(A–G, UC Honors, AP, CTE Pathway, etc.).

N/A

Specific steps each course, Professional Learning Community (PLC) or Small Learning Community (SLC) has taken (or is taking) to align the course/curricula are relevant, rigorous, and includes representation from marginalized populations?

N/A

How has your department utilized the self-selected Pali Period time?

We have course planning webinars every semester to help students plan their courses and inform them of resources on campus.

How has your department's curriculum delivery changed since the implementation of our 1:1 Device Program?

N/A

Provide a candid, honest, and detailed discussion of the department's strengths and challenges. Include areas in which the Board of Trustees can aid the department, steps the administration and department are taking to improve areas where the department is challenged and solidify areas of strength.

Strengths:

- Counselors have had annual retreats to review and refine our program and processes. From that, we have increased individual meetings with students, increased our online resources, and added interventions that are more effective. Example include:
- ONLINE RESOURCES -
  - Counselors created a programming website at go.palihigh.org/courseplanning with tools and resources for students to explore and plan their four years at Pali.
  - Counselors worked with department chairs to update the course catalog at go.palihigh.org/palicourses so students can research and learn about course offerings.
- INTERVENTION COUNSELOR - Pali has hired a full-time intervention counselor to work with students who are at risk of failing and not graduating, overseeing credit recovery.
- COST - We have revised the COST process to identify students who need interventions and triage students to other programs, such as mental health, special education, attendance and behavior.
- PARENTSQUARE - Counselors are using this tool to proactively communicate with parents about a student's graduation status, credit summary and other relevant announcements.
- PEER MEDIATION - Peer mediators are trained to facilitate conversations between students who are in conflict. Referrals generally come from the dean's office and are increasing.
- DUAL ENROLLMENT - Our partnership with WLA college has increased to five course offerings, with over 120 students successfully completing college classes for high school and college credit.
- INTERNS - We have three counseling interns who have been helping with groups on campus, including a math intervention group, after school executive functioning group and the lunch bunch.

Challenges:

- Managing expectations - American School Counselor Association recommends 250 students as a caseload for academic counselors. We have 375 in a very involved community with high expectations.
- Special Education - Welligent access has been limited which results in delayed or limited information about new students with IEPs. Counselors need better information on class placement for those students.
- Professional Development - PD is often teacher-related and we would appreciate trainings in technology, and student issues like bullying and suicide risk assessment.