

2026-2027 Millsap Elementary Guidance Services

My role at MES as the counselor includes meeting our youngest Bulldogs' needs by aligning the Capturing Kids' Hearts philosophy with the Texas Model's four components: Guidance Curriculum, Responsive Services, Individual Student Planning, and System Support. My time is allocated to provide Direct Services (80%) and Indirect Services (20%) for students. My role this year has changed some with the addition of classroom push-in to better serve the needs of students with in-class support for dynamic personalities and a proactive approach on modeling best-practice strategies.

We are a Capturing Kids' Hearts campus. Our CKH character traits (empathy, self-direct, teamwork, responsibility, respect, kindness, courage, perseverance, and integrity) are included in our daily morning assembly and direct classroom implementation. Each month, teachers select an exemplary student from each grade level that demonstrates the CKH character trait for that month. Those students are recognized during the morning assembly in front of their peers and teachers. Each "Top Dog" receives a certificate of recognition and a treat bag with bulldog swag items. All Top Dogs' pictures are displayed on the CKH V.I.P. bulletin board and published in the monthly school newsletter, The DAWG Dish.

Our goal is to help each student learn how to handle emotions that come with life and reach her/his full potential by learning the skills to be successful in school and life. We want every student to feel safe and welcome at school. The counselor is available to students who may need to talk with someone about their lives. Students are free to talk about what may be going on and share their feelings in a one-on-one setting or small group environment during weekly Lunch Bunch interactions.

This is our second year using the Xello program for college and career readiness for all MISD students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. They'll form building blocks of meaningful life and career development, setting them up for smoother transitions in school and life. Students craft the story of who they are and what makes them unique, setting the groundwork for ongoing self-reflection. Students discover a variety of careers and their associated skills and pathways to better understand the working world.

This is our second year partnering with MHS in the PAL Program that provides a mentor/mentee relationship with an older peer role model. We have placed 36 elementary students that meet weekly this year.

Last school year, we noticed an increase in absences, tardiness, and early checkouts. At that time, we implemented an attendance contest between homerooms to incentivize our students to get to school on time and to complete the school day on a regular basis. Similar incentives are being planned by a special staff committee this school year.

MES participates in the national WATCH D.O.G.S. program ("Dads of Great Students.") Male role models are encouraged to spend time in classrooms, cafeteria, and playgrounds to build positive relationships with all students.

This is our third year partnering with Millsap Church to provide the Backpack Buddies Food Program to students that may be experiencing a food deficit over the weekends and

2026-2027 Millsap Elementary Guidance Services

extended school breaks. This year we are serving an average of 32 MISD students weekly covering all three campuses (PreK-12th grade).

Last holiday season, we partnered with a philanthropic organization from Stephenville, Blessed 100, that gifted eight elementary students with name brand athletic schools, backpacks, hoodies, and other daily necessities. The organization expanded this year to include middle and high school siblings in the program. This year there will be 15 students being blessed.

All campuses in MISD now use, “STOPit,” a reporting system for schools that better protects a student's physical, social, and emotional well-being. It helps schools detect, deter, and manage student safety, bullying, and mental health concerns.

Please contact me at tblankenship@millsapisd.net if you have any questions.

MILLSAP MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM
2026–2027 School Year

Middle school is a period of significant transition. Students are discovering who they are, building new relationships, developing independence, and learning how to manage the academic and personal responsibilities that come with growing up. During this stage, students may experience challenges related to friendships, peer pressure, self-confidence, emotional regulation, academic performance, family circumstances, social media, and mental health.

The Millsap Middle School Counseling Program is committed to helping students navigate these experiences while developing the skills they need to become confident, responsible, and successful individuals. My goal is to make sure students know they have someone at school they can turn to for guidance, encouragement, and support.

This is my 14th year working in school counseling, and I am excited to continue serving students in this important role. Although I am new to the Texas education system, I bring years of experience working with middle and high school students and a strong commitment to learning the state-specific requirements that guide our work. I understand that each state has its own educational policies, assessment procedures, and expectations for school counselors, and I am taking intentional steps to become familiar with these responsibilities.

I have already participated in several professional development sessions through Region 11 Education Service Center to expand my knowledge of Texas education. These sessions have helped me begin learning more about STAAR assessments, TELPAS, student transcripts, social-emotional development, mental health, and other important areas related to student services. I plan to continue pursuing professional learning opportunities so I can provide informed, effective support to our students and families.

In addition to counseling students, my responsibilities include assisting with Section 504 coordination and state testing. These areas require attention to detail, collaboration, and an understanding of the procedures that help ensure students receive appropriate support and accommodations. As I continue learning the Texas system, I am committed to strengthening my knowledge while keeping students' academic progress and overall well-being at the forefront of my work.

Our Counseling Program in Action

The counseling program at Millsap Middle School focuses on four essential areas that work together to promote student growth and school success.

1. Student Development and Guidance

An important part of school counseling is helping students build the personal and interpersonal skills they need both inside and outside the classroom.

As a Capturing Kids' Hearts campus, Millsap Middle School emphasizes relationships, trust, mutual respect, and accountability. Social Contracts and positive classroom interactions help establish an environment where students understand expectations and recognize their role in creating a welcoming school community.

We will begin incorporating guidance lessons throughout the school year that focus on helping students manage their emotions, resolve conflicts, make responsible decisions, build healthy friendships, prevent bullying, navigate social media responsibly, and strengthen their communication skills. These lessons will provide students with practical strategies they can use to build positive relationships, overcome challenges, and make healthy choices both in and out of the classroom.

2. Academic Growth and Future Readiness

Students benefit from learning how to take responsibility for their education and make informed decisions about their future. The counseling program will encourage students to develop practical skills that support academic success, including organization, time management, goal setting, and self-advocacy.

Students will also have opportunities to reflect on their progress, identify areas where they need additional assistance, and learn how to seek help when challenges arise.

Through Xello and other appropriate guidance activities, students can begin exploring career interests, educational pathways, college opportunities, military service, and workforce options. Introducing these possibilities during middle school helps students understand how their current interests, habits, and choices can influence future opportunities.

My goal is to help students see themselves as active participants in their education and to encourage them to approach their future with confidence and purpose.

3. Individual and Small-Group Student Support

Every student experiences challenges differently. Some may need assistance navigating peer relationships, while others may be dealing with academic frustration, family changes, anxiety, low self-esteem, or difficulty managing emotions.

The counseling program provides opportunities for students to receive support through individual conversations, check-ins, and collaboration with parents, teachers, and administrators when appropriate.

Students may be referred for support by school staff or family members, or they may reach out independently when they need someone to talk to.

I want students to understand that asking for help is a strength. My role is to listen, help students identify possible solutions, teach coping and problem-solving strategies, and connect them with additional resources when necessary. When concerns extend beyond the services available at school, collaboration with families and appropriate community professionals can help ensure students receive the assistance they need.

4. Collaboration and Community Resources

Supporting students successfully requires a team approach. School counselors work alongside teachers, administrators, families, and community partners to identify concerns, coordinate services, and help remove barriers that may interfere with learning.

At Millsap Middle School, building strong professional relationships and maintaining connections with outside resources are important parts of supporting student needs. These partnerships can help students and families access additional assistance related to emotional well-being, behavioral concerns, family needs, and other challenges.

I will continue working with campus and district staff to strengthen communication and collaboration while expanding my understanding of the Texas education system. Continued professional development and consultation with experienced colleagues will be important as I learn more about state assessment procedures, Section 504 requirements, academic records, student services, and other responsibilities connected to my role.

Moving Forward: Learning, Growing, and Serving

As I begin my journey in Texas education, I recognize the importance of remaining open to learning, asking questions, and seeking guidance from knowledgeable colleagues. My professional experience has provided me with a strong foundation in school counseling, and I am building on that foundation by learning the specific expectations, procedures, and resources used throughout Texas schools.

My participation in Region 11 professional development is just one part of this ongoing commitment. I will continue expanding my knowledge so I can confidently assist students, support families, collaborate with teachers, and contribute to the overall success of Millsap Middle School.

I believe that students are more likely to succeed when they feel connected to their school, supported by trusted adults, and encouraged to recognize their own potential. My commitment is to help create an environment where students feel comfortable seeking assistance, learn to advocate for themselves, and develop the academic, social, and emotional skills they need for the next stage of their lives.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be part of the Millsap Middle School community and to work with a team that shares a commitment to student growth. I look forward to building relationships, learning from those around me, and making a positive difference in the lives of our students.

Our goal is to help every student feel connected, build confidence, overcome challenges, and discover the potential within themselves.

Direct Student Services**Guidance Curriculum and Prevention**

- Academic planning and postsecondary preparation.
- Opioid and fentanyl awareness and prevention, including applicable state requirements under HB 3144 and HB 3908. (Red Ribbon Week Oct. 27-30. 2026)
- Drug and alcohol abuse prevention. (Red Ribbon Week Oct. 27-30. 2026)
- Financial aid education and preparation for college enrollment.

Individual Student Planning

The counselor works individually with students to develop academic and career plans that reflect their interests, strengths, and future goals. Responsibilities include graduation plan reviews, course selection, transcript audits, credit checks, credit recovery tracking, and postsecondary planning. All transcript audits are complete 9-12th grade through spring of 2026. 9th grade graduation plans are in-progress. Additional services include dual credit advising, TSI testing coordination, and assistance with identifying appropriate academic interventions to keep students on track for graduation including schedule revisions and McMurray English Dual Credit Enrollment.

Responsive Services and Student Support

The counseling program provides short-term individual counseling, crisis intervention, social-emotional support, and referrals to community resources when needed.

Support areas include:

- Stress and anxiety management with a focus on resilience.
- Peer conflict and interpersonal relationships.
- Academic difficulties and barriers to learning.
- Suicide risk assessments and safety planning.
- Parent communication and coordination with campus staff and outside agencies.

College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR)**Testing and College Readiness**

The counseling office has assisted the administration of the following assessments:

- **PSAT 8/9** to support early academic readiness and identify opportunities for growth.
- **PSAT/NMSQT** to provide college readiness feedback and potential National Merit Scholarship consideration for eligible students.
- **SAT** to support college admission and scholarship opportunities.
- **TSI Assessment** to evaluate college readiness and support dual credit and postsecondary planning.

Testing responsibilities include registration, College Board coordination, accommodations for eligible students, scheduling, room assignments, and staff coordination.

During the initial 45-day reporting period, 52 took TSI, 152 students took the PSAT, and 45 students took the SAT.

Senior College and Career Preparation

The counseling program has used **Xello** to help seniors prepare for postsecondary opportunities. Students have worked on building resumes and completing two FAFSA-related lessons to strengthen their understanding of financial aid and the college application process.

Additional senior services include transcript reviews, college applications, admissions essays, recommendation letters, scholarship searches, and financial aid guidance.

My Texas Future and Direct Admissions

Millsap High School has encouraged seniors to participate in the My Texas Future direct admissions opt-in process.

- **58 of 63 seniors (92.1%)** have completed the direct admissions opt-in.
- **5 of 63 seniors (7.9%)** have completed the college admissions process and been accepted to the college of their choice.
- **33%** of seniors have completed applications through Apply Texas or Common App as of Oct. 15th.

FAFSA and Financial Aid Initiatives

- Two FAFSA lessons have been completed by seniors through Xello.
- **FAFSA Night with Weatherford College:** November 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Millsap High School cafeteria.
- **FAFSA completion target:** December 1, 2026, as the campus target date for encouraging students to complete the application.
- Families will receive information about FAFSA completion, financial aid options, and resources for navigating the college-going process.

Upcoming College and Career Day

January 21, 2027 — Millsap High School College and Career Day

This event will provide students with opportunities to explore college options, career pathways, educational requirements, and future employment possibilities.

Indirect Student Services and System Support

Section 504 Coordination

The counselor coordinates Section 504 services to ensure eligible students receive appropriate accommodations and support.

Responsibilities include maintaining documentation in Empower, distributing accommodations to teachers, reviewing incoming student records, gathering teacher input, communicating with parents, and coordinating evaluation and reevaluation meetings.

59 students are receiving Section 504 services.

Dual Credit Coordination

The counseling office supports students pursuing college credit while enrolled in high school. This includes communicating dual credit opportunities, coordinating testing and registration, aligning courses with Weatherford College, and serving as a liaison among students, college personnel, and campus staff.

56 students are enrolled in 109 dual credit courses.

Safety, Crisis Response, and Collaboration

The counselor collaborates with campus administrators, teachers, parents, and community agencies to address student needs and maintain a safe learning environment. Services include safety assessments, parent communication, individualized safety plans, crisis referrals, and follow-up support.

4 student risk assessments had been completed during the initial reporting period.

Key Accomplishments and Progress

Area	Progress to Date
Direct admissions	58 of 63 seniors completed the My Texas Future opt-in — 92.1%
College admissions	5 of 63 seniors have received college admission offers to date
Senior preparation	Xello resume development and two FAFSA lessons completed
Financial aid outreach	FAFSA Night scheduled for November 9, 2026
FAFSA completion	December 1, 2026, established as the campus completion target
College and career exploration	College and Career Day scheduled for January 21, 2027
College readiness testing	PSAT 8/9, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, and TSI coordination
Student support	Section 504 coordination, crisis response, academic planning, and dual credit support

Since the beginning of the school year, the counseling office has developed and distributed the following resources:

- Class of 2027 Scholarship Flyer: Shared local and regional scholarship opportunities to help seniors identify financial resources for college.
- FAFSA Night Flyer: Promoted FAFSA Night in partnership with Weatherford College to educate students and families about financial aid and FAFSA completion.
- FAFSA Timeline and Completion Checklist: Provided students with a timeline of important financial aid deadlines and a checklist to help them complete the FAFSA process and track required steps.
- FAFSA vs. TASFA Flyer: Explained the differences between the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) to help students identify the appropriate financial aid application.
- ApplyTexas vs. Common App Flyer: Explained the differences between the two college application platforms to help students determine which application to use when applying to Texas colleges and universities.
- Senior Year Checklist: Developed a checklist to help seniors track graduation requirements, college applications, scholarships, financial aid, and postsecondary planning deadlines.
- Transcript Request Form: Established a process for students to request transcripts for college admissions, scholarships, and other postsecondary opportunities.
- Senior Conference Schedules: Organized individual senior conferences to review graduation progress, transcripts, college and career plans, and next steps after high school.
- Scholarship Bulletin Board: Maintained a centralized display of scholarship opportunities, eligibility requirements, deadlines, and application information.
- Senior Bulletin Board: Provided a dedicated space for senior announcements, graduation reminders, college admissions updates, and important deadlines.
- College Admissions Guidance Materials: Provided college admission requirements, application resources, and admissions recruiter contacts to help students explore postsecondary options.
- College Recommendation Letters: Prepared individualized counselor recommendations to support scholarship applications and college admissions.
- College Application Essay Feedback: Provided personalized feedback to help students strengthen application essays while maintaining their individual voices and experiences.
- Red Ribbon Week Communications: Shared schoolwide activities and dress-up themes promoting prevention awareness, student engagement, and college and career exploration.
- College and Career Readiness Resources: Supported students in exploring college, career, and military pathways and identifying opportunities aligned with their interests and goals.

Priorities for the Remainder of the School Year

The counseling program will continue to focus on:

1. Ensuring all seniors are on track to meet graduation requirements.
2. Increasing college application and admission completion among seniors.
3. Supporting FAFSA completion and family participation in financial aid opportunities.
4. Encouraging completion of the My Texas Future direct admissions process for all eligible seniors.
5. Expanding student exposure to college, career, and military pathways.
6. Maintaining timely Section 504 coordination and responsive student support.
7. Monitoring dual credit participation, academic progress, and testing needs.



MILLSAP HIGH SCHOOL

2026-2027 COUNSELOR'S REPORT

1st Nine Weeks

MISSION STATEMENT

The Millsap High School Counseling Program's mission is to help every student succeed academically and grow personally by providing essential lessons, offering support when needed, creating individual plans, and collaborating with staff to enhance student success.

DIRECT STUDENT SERVICES

1

GUIDANCE CURRICULUM AND PREVENTION

- Academic planning and postsecondary preparation.
- Opioid and fentanyl awareness and prevention (HB 3144 & HB 3908).
- Drug and alcohol abuse prevention.
Red Ribbon Week: Oct. 27-30, 2026
- Financial aid education and preparation for college enrollment.

2

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PLANNING

- Graduation plan reviews, course selection, transcript audits, credit checks, and credit recovery tracking.
- All transcript audits are complete for grades 9-12 through spring of 2026. 9th grade graduation plans are in progress.
- Dual credit advising and TSI testing coordination.
- Academic interventions including schedule revisions and McMurray English enrollment.
- Personalized academic and career planning based on student interests, strengths, and goals.

3

RESPONSIVE SERVICES AND STUDENT SUPPORT

The counseling program provides short-term individual counseling, crisis intervention, social-emotional support, and referrals to community resources when needed.

Support areas include:

- Stress and anxiety management with a focus on resilience.
- Peer conflict and interpersonal relationships.
- Academic difficulties and barriers to learning.
- Suicide risk assessments and safety planning.
- Parent communication and coordination with campus staff and outside agencies.



MILLSAP HIGH SCHOOL

2026-2027 COUNSELOR'S REPORT

1st Nine Weeks

COLLEGE, CAREER, AND MILITARY READINESS (CCMR)



TESTING AND COLLEGE READINESS

The counseling office has assisted with the administration of the following assessments:

PSAT 8/9

Early academic readiness and identify growth opportunities

PSAT/NMSQT

College readiness feedback and potential National Merit consideration

SAT

Support college admission and scholarship opportunities

TSI

Evaluate college readiness and support dual credit and postsecondary planning

Testing responsibilities include registration, College Board coordination, accommodations for eligible students, scheduling, room assignments, and staff coordination.

TESTING PARTICIPATION (First 45 Days)

52
TSI

152
PSAT

45
SAT



SENIOR COLLEGE AND CAREER PREPARATION

- Utilized Xello for resume development and two FAFSA-related lessons.
- Transcript reviews, college applications, admissions essays, recommendation letters, scholarship searches, and financial aid guidance.



MY TEXAS FUTURE AND DIRECT ADMISSIONS

- 58 of 63 seniors (92.1%)** have completed the My Texas Future direct admissions opt-in.
- 5 of 63 seniors (7.9%)** have received college admission offers.
- 33%** of seniors have completed applications through Apply Texas or Common App (as of Oct. 15th).



FAFSA AND FINANCIAL AID INITIATIVES

- Two FAFSA lessons completed by seniors through Xello.
- FAFSA Night with Weatherford College: November 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** in the MHS cafeteria.
- Campus FAFSA completion target: **December 1, 2026.**
- Families will receive information about financial aid options and resources for the college-going process.



UPCOMING COLLEGE AND CAREER DAY

January 21, 2027

Millsap High School College and Career Day

Students will explore college options, career pathways, educational requirements, and future employment possibilities.



MILLSAP HIGH SCHOOL

2026-2027 COUNSELOR'S REPORT

1st Nine Weeks

INDIRECT STUDENT SERVICES AND SYSTEM SUPPORT



SECTION 504 COORDINATION

- Maintain documentation in Empower and distribute accommodations.
- Review incoming student records and gather teacher input.
- Communicate with parents and coordinate evaluation/reevaluation meetings.

59

students receiving
Section 504
services.



DUAL CREDIT COORDINATION

- Communicate dual credit opportunities.
- Coordinate testing and registration.
- Align courses with Weatherford College.
- Serve as a liaison among students, college personnel, and campus staff.

56

students enrolled
in 109 dual credit
courses.



SAFETY, CRISIS RESPONSE, AND COLLABORATION

- Collaborate with administrators, teachers, parents, and community agencies.
- Conduct safety assessments and develop individualized safety plans.
- Provide crisis referrals and follow-up support.

4

student risk
assessments
completed.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROGRESS

Direct admissions	58 of 63 seniors completed the My Texas Future opt-in (92.1%).
College admissions	5 of 63 seniors have received college admission offers to date.
Senior preparation	Xello resume development and two FAFSA lessons completed.
Financial aid outreach	FAFSA Night scheduled for November 9, 2026.
FAFSA completion	December 1, 2026, established as the campus completion target.
College and career exploration	College and Career Day scheduled for January 21, 2027.
College readiness testing	PSAT 8/9, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, and TSI coordination.
Student support	Section 504 coordination, crisis response, academic planning, and dual credit support.

STUDENT AND FAMILY RESOURCES DEVELOPED



- Class of 2027 Scholarship Flyer
- FAFSA Night Flyer
- FAFSA Timeline and Completion Checklist
- FAFSA vs. TASFA Flyer
- ApplyTexas vs. Common App Flyer
- Senior Year Checklist
- Transcript Request Form
- Senior Conference Schedules

- Scholarship and Senior Bulletin Boards
- College Admissions Guidance Materials
- Recommendation Letters
- College Application Essay Feedback
- Red Ribbon Week Communications
- College and Career Readiness Resources

PRIORITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR



- Ensure all seniors are on track for graduation.
- Increase college application and admission completion among seniors.
- Support FAFSA completion and family participation.
- Encourage completion of My Texas Future direct admissions for all eligible seniors.

- Expand student exposure to college, career, and military pathways.
- Maintain timely Section 504 coordination and responsive student support.
- Monitor dual credit participation, academic progress, and testing needs.