

Marin's schools need housing

Teachers, school staff, and young families are increasingly priced out of Marin — and our schools are paying the price.

43%

Marin school staff cannot afford a studio apartment in the county

50%

expected reduced attrition rate among teachers 18–39, if affordable housing were available

400–500

fewer students per grade across Marin due to fewer families

Former San Rafael City Schools Board of Education President Linda Jackson argued that job vacancies, once rare, now commonly go unfilled throughout a school year and that *“the solution is affordable housing right here, in Marin!”*

Schools are struggling to keep teachers.

High housing costs make it difficult for schools to:

- recruit teachers
- retain experienced educators
- hire support staff
- maintain stable classrooms

Declining enrollment hurts school budgets.

As fewer families with children can afford Marin, enrollment has steadily declined across the county.

Lower enrollment means:

- budget shortfalls
- program cuts
- larger class sizes
- staff layoffs

Student counts have dropped for seven years and are expected to keep dropping. Affordable housing helps stabilize schools by making it possible for more families to remain in Marin.

Housing supports diverse and inclusive schools.

Marin's student population is far more diverse than its teaching workforce: while 43% of students are students of color, only 11% of teachers and faculty are. High housing costs make it difficult for many educators to live and work in Marin, limiting the diversity of our schools. Research consistently shows that students benefit from having diverse teachers and role models. Black students who have at least one Black teacher are 13% more likely to enroll in college.

Housing policy is education policy.

If teachers, school staff, and families can't afford to live in Marin, the long-term quality and stability of our schools is at risk.

Great schools depend on the people who make them possible.



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