
Closure Guidelines

Ending the Mentor-Mentee Relationship



Closure can be difficult for both the volunteer/mentor and the student/mentee. The student should be told at the beginning that the match is for a designated time (school year, educational career, etc.)

- At the first meeting, let the student know how long you intend to meet with them. TSIC PBC matches mentors with the intention that the student will be mentored by the same individual throughout their High School career.
- Closure actually happens each time you meet with your student. At the end of a meeting, give some positive feedback about that day or week (recommend keeping a running diary of comments). Let your student know that you will be returning.
- Discuss the achievements made, no matter how small, during the time you spend together each week.
- You might give your student a calendar so that he/she can keep a record of your visits together and reinforce the time span involved.
- Discuss any holidays, class conflicts, out of town trips, or vacation breaks which will conflict with your scheduled visits. TSIC PBC mentors do not meet with their students during scheduled school breaks and holidays. Virtual mentoring through the TSIC Mentor App is an option when mentors are not available for in-person meetings.
- Snap a picture together to share with your student as a reminder of your time together.
- Don't just leave! At-risk students don't need to feel abandoned or rejected. They will understand schedule changes, moving away, and so forth, better than your unexplained disappearance. Remind the student a week or two before you leave about the final parting time.
- It's never easy to say goodbye, but the pain of letting go is not as difficult if the date of the final meeting is planned and discussed in advance. Perhaps a special activity can be arranged.