
The Role of a Mentor

Roles & Responsibilities for Success



WHAT A MENTOR IS

A mentor is a special type of school volunteer, committed to helping a student experience greater success - academically, socially, mentally, emotionally, and physically.

Mentors' roles generally fall into two categories:

1. Helping students achieve educational or career goals
2. Enhancing students' self-confidence and self-awareness

It is common to hear the mentor described as a:

- Teacher
- Trainer
- Opener of Doors
- Positive Role Model
- Sponsor
- Advocate
- Developer of Talent
- Friend

The mentor will be matched one-on-one with a student and will meet for about 30 minutes, once a week, for at least 1 school year. These meetings must be held on school grounds, during the school day, unless the mentor and student are participating in an approved field trip or activity, or attending a TSIC/JS event. Meetings must occur in-person during the student's lunch period.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Any and all of the following are important activities for mentors in the lives of their students:

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- A mentor can help with homework or missed class work and should encourage good attendance.
- A mentor can help young people in school, help them graduate from High School and help them evaluate educational choices and then direct them to resources.
- A mentor can help and support a student with their college exploration and application process.

ROLE MODELING

- A mentor can point out, demonstrate, and explain actions and values that offer the best chances for success and happiness.
- A mentor should help students see and strive for broader horizons and possibilities than they may see in their present environments.

ATTENTION & CONCERN

- Many students do not receive enough attention from the adults in their lives- give your student the attention they deserve.
- Mentors can fill in these empty spaces with dependable, sincere, and consistent attention and concern.

LISTENING

- The other adults in the young person's life may not have the time, interest, or ability to listen. Mentors can encourage young people to talk about their fears, dreams, and concerns.
- Remember: A mentor may be the only adult in a student's life that really listens.

COMMITMENT

A commitment made to a student for a meeting, activity, or any kind of appointment should be a mentor's first priority, barring emergencies. This consistent accountability has several benefits:

1. Cements trust between a mentor and student.
2. Sets a good example (role modeling) for students to follow.
3. Creates mutual expectations that can be met.