

ACSA Mentor Program:



Mentor Program Update | Spring 2021

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The Mentor Program is now finishing its sixth year of operation, and it has proven to be a very valued benefit offered by ACSA Member Services. This current school year is particularly challenging in that all educational leaders are faced with the daunting task of providing quality educational programs for all of our students while dealing with the health and safety concerns associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. During the 2019-2020 school year, our Regional Facilitators established and monitored approximately 170 mentor/protégé relationships. During each full year of operation, the program has continued to grow as more and more new administrators realize the benefits of participation. Feedback from participants has been very positive, and we are confident that new administrators will continue to take advantage of this program. Our outstanding group of Regional Facilitators, who volunteer their time, meet virtually on a regular basis during the year to discuss ways to increase the number of relationships and improve the quality of each.

While many active and retired administrators have signed up to be mentors, **there is still a high need for mentors in specialty areas**, such as distance learning, business operations, and special education. If you have a background in any area where you were considered to be a “specialist” or served in some other unique role, please consider participating in the program as a mentor. Giving back to your chosen profession is not only admirable but highly rewarding as well.

Our goal is to improve the effectiveness of administrative leaders, thereby increasing the success of their students, and protecting the investment that is administrative personnel. District and school administrators are expected to be great leaders from the very beginning of their careers, but the framework to hone their leadership skills primarily occurs prior to their gaining practical experience. Mentoring is an excellent way to provide on the job, confidential, practical support for new administrators, and possibly the best aspect is that the service is included within your ACSA membership dues. Each and every time a district hires an administrator, the district is making a substantial investment. It simply makes sense to develop and protect that investment, and the Mentor Program is a great starting point. We are encouraging all superintendents, now more than ever, to let their new administrators know of the program and encourage them to participate.

ACSA members in their first or second year in any new administrative position are eligible to receive a skilled and experienced mentor. Mentors are often retired administrators who simply want to give back to their profession. Building these professional relationships has proven to be an invaluable step in building successful careers.

Simply go to www.acsa.org/mentorprogram. This link will take you directly to an application, where you can sign up to be a mentor or a protégé. As previously stated, there is no additional charge for this service. Upon completion of the form, you will be contacted by one of our Regional Facilitators. Don't fail to take advantage of this opportunity!

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