

STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM SHPD PROGRAM/SERVICE

Mentoring is a structured, consistent and purposeful relationship between a young person and a caring adult who provides acceptance, support, encouragement, guidance and concrete assistance to promote healthy child/youth development and student success.

History and background:

- The **Student Mentor Program** was piloted at 3 elementary school sites during 2005-2006, and expanded to 8 school sites in 2006-2007. Based on this success, SHPD was awarded a mentoring grant from the Department of Education to expand the program to all SFUSD Middle Schools over a three-year period (i.e., *Mentoring for Success*). In 2007-2008, 7 additional elementary sites implemented the program for a total of 15 elementary sites, and 7 middle school sites were added as per the “Mentoring for Success” grant project, for a total of 258 matches. Mentor Program Coordinators are Student Support Services staff (e.g., Learning Support Professionals (LSP), School District Nurses (SDN), School Counselors, etc). The position may also be filled by a “job share” (e.g., a collaborative effort between a LSP, SDN, Site Nutrition Coordinator, After School Program Site Coordinator or other qualified site staff member).

What is the SHPD Student Mentor Program?

- Consistent, well managed school-based mentoring programs provide *research validated* interventions designed to build student assets, enhance academic success and reduce absenteeism. Mentors are regular day staff and after school program staff who volunteer to spend one hour a week during the school year with their students on school grounds.

What are the goals of the Student Mentor Program?

- To provide one-to-one mentors to students to address issues such as: Attendance, Academic Performance, Homework Completion, Positive Behavior, Positive Attitude Toward School, Involvement in Asset Building Activities and Conflict Management Skills.

How are program sites selected?

- Schools complete a simple application of interest and are selected according to established criteria such as need and readiness of the school to implement a new program. SHPD offers informational meetings for school staff to help in their decision-making/application process.

How are programs started?

- At selected sites, the designated “Mentor Program Coordinator” implements and manages the program at the school, with the assistance of other on-site support staff and SHPD. *A job description is available for the position of Mentor Program Coordinator by contacting SHPD.*
- Designated Mentor Program Coordinators participate in a 2.5 hour training hosted by SHPD staff to provide an overview of the program. Participants receive the Student Mentor Program Guide and all program forms/documents needed to implement the Student Mentor Program.
- Start-up activities involve: mentor recruitment, student enrollment/parental consent, mentor orientation and mentor-student matching. This can be accomplished in approximately 4-6 hours/week over the course of 4-6 weeks. Ongoing program coordination and match oversight may require 2-4 hours/week.

Resources within SFUSD and SHPD available to support this program:

- The initial start-up training and Student Mentor Program Guide outline the program and include all necessary documents required to implement and maintain the program.
- SHPD provides a Learning Support Professional (LSP)/District Mentor Program Coordinator to support designated “Mentor Program Coordinators” during start-up and implementation with trainings and technical assistance/capacity building.
- Other resources that support the Student Mentor Program may include: Student Assistance Program (SAP), Student Attendance Review Team (SART), LSP, Nurse, School Counselor, Parent Liaison, Site Nutrition Coordinator and ExCEL After School Program.