

Ignite Partnerships

Mentoring Partnerships

Best Practices

A mentor is a caring, responsible person who is interested in giving time to a student, encouraging the child to develop his or her strengths and capabilities.

Quality mentoring programs have been shown to impact students socially, emotionally, and academically, thus creating safer, healthier, more productive citizens of our society.



Ignite Partnership Requirements

To support a school-based mentoring program as an Ignite Partner, we request engagement by 10 mentors or the support of at least 10 students. In some cases, we allow for growth over time.

We seek partners who can support a full school year. If beginning after November 15, we ask for a commitment through the following school year.

FCPS MentorWorks Office

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Search "Be a Mentor!"

FCPS Partnerships Office

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Search "Ignite Partnerships"



A Model for Mentoring Success

This information represents the best practices of Fairfax County Public Schools MentorWorks office.

Commitment for an Individual Mentor

- Mentoring takes place on school grounds during the school day or in a school sanctioned before or after-school setting.
- The time commitment is 30 minutes each week, though there is some flexibility. VIRTUAL meetings can be blended with IN-PERSON meetings, but each mentoring relationship is unique, so the balance between the two is determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Because mentors support students socially and emotionally, FCPS will strategically pair mentors and mentees. Mentors can be placed in a school convenient to where they live or work.
- When appropriate, we recommend that mentors stay with their mentees as they move from one grade to the next and to middle or high school.

Background Checks and Fingerprinting

- Mentors are required to go through the FCPS fingerprinting and background check process and FCPS mentor training prior to engaging students.
- If your organization has 5 or more potential mentors, the FCPS mobile fingerprinting unit will come to your location.

Once We've Agreed to Partner

Partner Coordinator

- Designate a mentoring point-of-contact.
- Advertise and collect contact information for new mentors.
- Connect new candidates to the FCPS MentorWorks Specialist for training and screening.

MentorWorks Specialist

- Support recruiting efforts.
- Train mentor candidates and coordinate the background check and fingerprint process.
- Connect new mentors to the school-based mentoring coordinator.