

Selecting the right students for mentoring is an important step in creating strong, positive matches. Mentoring is most effective when students are interested in participating and able to engage consistently in the relationship. Below are some guidelines to assist you when referring students for SSV's school-based mentoring program:

Students Who May Benefit Most from Mentoring

Mentoring can be especially helpful for students who:

- May be experiencing challenges with confidence or peer relationships
- Would benefit from having a trusted adult at school focused on helping them work toward academic, social, or personal growth goals
- Would benefit from positive adult attention and additional encouragement

Student Readiness Indicators

Before submitting a student referral, consider whether the student:

- Is interested in and open to meeting with a mentor weekly
- Can present enough (physically and socially) to build a relationship with a caring adult
- Is able to consistently and respectfully engage with a mentor in a one-to-one or small group setting

When Mentoring May Not Be the Best Fit

Mentoring may not be the most appropriate support if a student:

- Is not interested in participating or feels uncomfortable with the idea
- Is currently experiencing significant behavioral, emotional, or academic challenges that may require more intensive or specialized support
- Would be unable to participate consistently due to significant attendance issues, scheduling conflicts or other constraints

Role of School Staff

School staff play a critical role in setting students up for success. We recommend:

- Briefly introducing the mentoring program to the student before making a referral
- Framing mentoring as a positive opportunity (not a consequence)
- Helping reinforce consistent participation once matched

**If you are unsure whether mentoring is a good fit for a particular student,
we are happy to discuss it with you.**