



Mentor Application

Are you a lifelong learner? Would you like to continue learning? Would you like to be a "life-line" to a young educator? Please consider using your experience to assist recent graduates and music educators new to South Dakota by becoming a mentor.

What is the SDMEA Mentorship Program?

The mentoring program through SDMEA is a professional relationship between two parties. It is a partnership with both parties committed to growth and professional development. The term mentor refers to an experienced teacher, and mentee refers to a new teacher (either young to the profession or new to South Dakota). The goal of mentoring is to provide essential support and assistance to the mentee so they can be successful. The aim of the SDMEA Mentoring Program is to help young teachers acquire and develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and relationships necessary for a successful career.

Desirable traits for a mentor:

- *Be a current classroom teacher with a minimum of 5 years experience
- *Demonstrate instructional leadership and knowledge of content
- *Possess effective problem solving skills
- *Use a variety of instructional methods and classroom management techniques to meet the needs of all students
- *Be aware of available resources
- *Have familiarity with current educational practices
- *Convey enthusiasm about learning to students and believe that all students can succeed
- *Be committed to setting high student expectations and fostering excellent student performance *Demonstrate effective communication skills with colleagues, parents, and students
- *Possess good listening skills
- *Be reflective, analytical, and open-minded
- *Be willing to share professional expertise and insight with those just entering the profession *Maintain professional confidentiality
- *Be a team player

Ways to help the mentee or young teacher:

- *Collaborate with mentee whenever needed
- *Meet/visit/communicate with mentee prior to the beginning of the school year (if possible)
- *Meet/visit/communicate with mentee regularly during the school year
- *Help mentee identify pressing duties and prioritize time
- *Assist mentee with ideas to organize and manage the classroom
- *Suggest ways to effectively communicate and build relationships with students, parents and staff
- *Maintain confidentiality of mentee's progress
- *Explain written and unwritten policy
- *Recommend ways to plan and deliver instructional materials
- *Help mentee obtain available resources, materials, and support services
- *Provide information and support about festivals/contest and component organizations, including reminders about application deadlines

*Guide the professional well-being of the novice music teacher in joining the professional community.

Application

If you would like to be matched with a new South Dakota educator within your teaching specialty, please complete the following:

Name *

School (if retired, type in retired) *

Current Position (if retired, type in retired) *

Years of Experience *

Email Address *

Phone Number *

Best Times to Contact

Area of Expertise * Please mark all that apply

- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- College
- General Music
- Vocal Music
- Orchestra/Strings
- Band
- Piano
- Guitar
- Special Learners
- Music Technology
- Other:

Thank You!

Thank you so much for your willingness to mentor! Mentor/Teacher partnerships will be assigned by area, level, and geographic location when possible.

Please send form to:

Pat Toben
1709 S. Deerberry Trail
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Email
ptoben@hotmail.com