Shoulder to Shoulder Mentoring



Handbook 2017-2018

OCSD Vision: Fully Prepared and Life Ready!

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Overview

The goal of the Oswego City School District's Shoulder to Shoulder Mentoring Program is to enhance the teaching/learning environment in the classroom by assisting new teachers in effective daily instruction.

As school districts struggle with the high rates of teacher turnover and retirements, schools are facing a larger percentage of inexperienced teachers. These inexperienced teachers require direct and immediate support in their classrooms to provide the optimal learning environment and experiences for their students. Mentoring fosters the professional development of new teachers while improving teacher effectiveness and daily instruction. As research shows, quality teachers make all the difference in a child's education. Mentoring develops quality teachers and is key to maximizing student achievement.

The Oswego City School District Shoulder to Shoulder mentoring program presents a team approach to ongoing support, observational feedback, and staff development for new teachers. The program offers a two-tiered approach. The Executive Director of Elementary Education and Accountability oversees the program in each of the five elementary schools, the Oswego Middle School, and the Oswego High School. Mentors at the building level provide direct support to the new teachers. The Shoulder to Shoulder program offers assistance to teachers during their first year. Staff development allows participating teachers to learn new skills to enhance teacher performance and student achievement in the classroom.

The Shoulder to Shoulder program is structured to reflect the different needs teachers have at different stages of their careers. Each new teacher is paired up with a mentor who is an experienced teacher at the same grade level or in the same subject area. This mentoring team progresses through a carefully structured set of experiences designed to maximize the potential of the beginning teacher. Mentors receive training in three areas: building relationships, communication, and observation processes. In addition, professional development opportunities provide training in OCSD policies and procedures, literacy instruction, New York State Standards, and brain based learning strategies. This model develops collegiality and a community of learners at the building and district level.

Shoulder to Shoulder Goal

Enhance the teaching/learning environment
In the classroom by assisting
New teachers in effective daily instruction.

Beginning Teacher (or Intern) Responsibilities

- ➤ Establish and maintain professional respect, trust and confidentiality regarding the mentoring relationship
- ➤ Use the Shoulder to Shoulder Mentoring Handbook (STS) monthly focus chart and complete the STS monthly reflection sheet with mentor. The MENTOR will send the 'Monthly Reflection Sheet' (or the 'Monthly Focus Chart') to the Curriculum Office at the Education Center. An OCTA representative will be asked to read through the reflection
- ➤ Informal Weekly Meetings to reflect on your practice with Mentor and Intern
- ➤ Intern MUST attend the professional development that will be sponsored by the district specifically for this program. Day one will be held in the Fall on Classroom Management/EDI 3 hours and Day two will be held in the Early Winter with a 3 hours EDI training in the morning and the use of technology in the afternoon. These professional development opportunities will be offered in-district
- ➤ Intern MUST participate in at least 2 half days of collaboration meetings with their mentor at a time to be mutually determined by the Mentor and Intern. The primary focus of these collaborative half days will be the implementation of the material covered in the Professional Development
- Develop and work toward specific professional goal(s) with your building principal as tied to OCSD evaluator
- Communicate with building mentor at least once per week (in person, online, phone, notes, etc.)
- ➤ Accept constructive feedback and practice reflective teaching
- Participate in classroom visitation and follow up with feedback by mentor
 - ✓ Minimum of 2 visitations for the school year
 - ✓ Substitutes will be provided when visits are coordinated within a building
 - ✓ Complete the on-line end of year evaluation of the STS Program

First Day of School (Suggestions)

Greet each student at the door

- > Direct him/her to assigned seat
- > Tell child to read and follow any directions you may have on the board
- > Finish greeting the last to arrive in class

Welcome students to class and introduce yourself

- Your name and spelling of your name
- > Talk about your family, experience teaching, where you went to college
- ➤ Tell the children where you're from and where you now live
- ➤ Tell them why you decided to become a teacher

Arriving and leaving class

- ➤ Teach procedure for walking into the classroom
- > Teach procedure for dismissal
- > Teach procedure for lining up to leave classroom to attend lunch, specials, etc.

Explain rules and daily procedures

- ➤ Refer to rules that are posted in your classroom (or create a set of class rules with the students)
- > Explain discipline plan and consequences for improper behavior
- ➤ Explain procedure for making up work missed during music lessons, rehearsals, absentees from school, etc.
- > Explain procedure for handing in assignments, missed assignments, late assignments
- Explain homework philosophy and procedures

Respecting the classroom and supplies

- Refer to classroom rules and procedures
- > Teach procedure for replacing materials and supplies in their proper places
- > Explain to students what materials and supplies are for their use and what materials are strictly for teacher use

Getting Acquainted

- Prepare a variety of getting acquainted activities for the children to get to know their peers in order to build a community of learners within the classroom setting
- ➤ Give the children some time to chat to get acquainted with new faces and old friends

Mentor Responsibilities

- ➤ Build a professional relationship, including establishing and maintaining professional respect, trust and confidentiality regarding the mentoring relationship
- Provide professional, personal and instructional support
 - ✓ share on a day-to-day basis (when new teacher and mentor are in the same building)
 - ✓ communicate with new teacher at least once a week in a manner that promotes reflection
 - ✓ solicit and accept feedback
 - ✓ facilitate the acquisition of resources and open communication
- ➤ Participate in classroom visitations of your Intern and follow up with feedback
 - ✓ minimum of 2 observations for the school year one to be completed in fall and one in the spring
 - ✓ substitutes will be provided when visits are coordinated in a building
- ➤ Use the STS monthly focus chart and complete the STS monthly reflection sheet with mentor. The MENTOR will send the 'Monthly Reflection Sheet' (or the 'Monthly Focus Chart') to the Curriculum Office at the Education Center. An OCTA rep will be the reviewer of the monthly focus sheets.
- ➤ Informal Weekly Meetings to reflect on your practice with Mentor and Intern
- ➤ Mentor MUST participate in 2 half day collaboration meetings with their Intern at a time to be mutually determined by the Mentor and Intern. The primary focus of these collaborative half days will be the implementation of the material covered in the Professional Development
- Mentor must attend district mentor training, once trained they remain on mentor list for the district
- Complete the on-line end of year evaluation of STS Program

Confidentiality

It is absolutely essential that beginning teachers and mentors understand the OCSD policy on confidentiality. Mentors should never be put in the role of evaluator or be expected to report to principals how things are going with the Intern. If this question is asked by an administrator, the mentor may simply reply with, "I think it would be best for you to ask ______ how things are going." Our beginning teachers need to feel confident they can reveal their insecurities, disappointments and fears to a trusted mentor who will use the information as an avenue for reflective discussion. Principals and other supervisory administrators are reminded that the presence of a mentor is not a substitute for the support and guidance needed for new teachers.

There is also the issue of confidentiality regarding students. When the interest or safety of children is at risk, there should be no boundaries to confidentiality. The basic guidelines for confidentiality are as follows:

- ➤ Mentor teachers will be able to discuss, with the permission of the Intern, any aspect of the Intern's performance with members of the district mentoring team, or other persons whose job is to help teachers (i.e. school counselors, resource teachers, other grade level teachers, etc.)
- Mentors, with the Intern's knowledge, may discuss the Intern's teaching performance with appropriate administrators if, in the mentor's professional judgment, the physical safety of a child or children is at risk. (e.g. The Intern is using corporal punishment in the classroom.)

Principal Responsibilities

- > Support and encourage eligible faculty members to participate in the mentor program, including attending mentoring workshops when possible
- ➤ Respect the confidentiality of the mentor/teacher relationship and keep supervision and evaluation separate from mentoring
- ➤ Recognize efforts of mentors, Interns and faculty
- ➤ Coordinate the mentor matches with OCSD Mentor Team
- ➤ Provide suggestions and feedback to the STS Mentoring Program

Superintendent Responsibilities

- Propose budgets that provide funding to support the program and to effectively manage the budget
- ➤ Encourage and support the accomplishment of the goals of the mentor program
- > Serve as an advocate for the mentoring program with the board of education to the community
- ➤ Insure compliance with the contract and the law
- ➤ Provide suggestions and feedback to the STS mentoring program

Mentoring Tips

- Welcome new teachers to your school
- Be supportive
- Define the support staff in your building
- Plan for frequent contact quality time and availability
- Provide direct guidance give specific strategies to try and test
- Model best practice
- Engage in reflection and provide constructive feedback
- Clarify roles
- Have patience
- Organize and structure mentoring sessions
- Share, share and share
 - Classroom strategies
 - Units of study
 - Management techniques
 - o Discipline strategies
 - Your philosophy
- Remember all teachers are learners
- Make no assumptions
- Guide new teachers to define their professional mission
- Include new team members when planning
- Celebrate successes!

Mentoring Relationship: Self-Assessment Rubric

Rubrics can be useful in identifying the desired traits of a mentoring relationship. This inventory may be used to self-assess the relationship between you and your Intern. Choose the level that best represents your interaction with your Intern. Don't expect an exact match with each statement.

Level Four

There are regularly scheduled meetings between mentor and Intern. The meetings are free from interruptions and meet the needs of the partnership as well as promote district initiatives.

Learning-focused conversations regarding both teacher and student learning are consistently initiated by the mentor and Intern.

The mentor uses reflective questioning, consulting, collaboration, and cognitive coaching techniques to purposefully develop the Intern's ability to generate information and problem solve.

Mentoring meetings focus on making a connection between instructional practice and student results. Personal reflections form the basis for future actions.

The mentor models problem-solving techniques and reflective practice which the Intern adopts.

The Intern participates in district initiatives and gradually interacts as an active member of the professional school community.

Level Three

The mentor and Intern have regularly scheduled meetings.

Collaboration is promoted through joint planning, decision-making, problem-solving and responding to learning results.

The mentoring partnership is mutually beneficial and exchange of information is equal.

Learning-focused conversations center on implementation of curriculum and best practices.

The mentor provides contacts with other grade level/ content area colleagues and promotes collaborative opportunities.

Level Two

Scheduled meetings occur and satisfy the Intern's needs for information.

Throughout the partnership, the dispersing of information remains high for the mentor.

The mentor conducts the meetings and uses strategies to fix current problems and add to the Intern's list of possible activities.

Conversations center on specific episodes and situations. Meeting the needs of the Intern may become time intensive for the mentor.

The mentor provides orientation and induction to the professional school community

Level One

Contact is irregular and generally precipitated by a need for information or assistance by the Intern.

Interaction is limited and usually limited to the transfer of critical, basic information.

The mentor provides suggestions and advice as requested by the Intern.

The Intern's collegial and collaborative opportunities are limited to other beginning teachers close in proximity or content specialty.

The greatest learning for the Intern is within the management domain and generally does not progress to reflection and impact on students.

Survival strategies are the focus of the Intern's learning.

Shoulder to Shoulder Reflection Sheet (once each month)

A Companion to the Shoulder to Shoulder Monthly Focus Chart

Name of Mentor:	Name of Intern:
Month:	
• Questions Processed:	
• Lessons Learned	
■ New Issues:	
Next Steps:	

Mentor- Intern Observation Form (once each semester)

Name of Mentor:	Name of Intern:
Date of Observation:	
	wo classroom observations each year. When an observation has record your reflections and submit them to the district mentor
Pre-Observation Conference: Describe the agreements you have read	ched regarding the 'what and how' of the observation.
Classroom Observation: Describe briefly what was observed.	
Post Observation Conference: Describe the information that was share	red and any instructional improvement goals that came out of this.
Post Analysis: Feedback from the Intern on the coach	ing experience.

Appendix A

OCSD Mentor/Intern Monthly Focus Chart to Guide Interactions

September	Informational	Instructional	Personal	Management	Results	Collaboration
	Do you know the policies	Is the classroom	Are you scheduling	What is your process for		Have you discussed fall
Logistics	and procedures of the	organized for	"down time" for	establishing the behavior		open house?
Set specific	school and/or district?	learning?	yourself?	rules for the classroom?		'
times to meet.		S S		What are the rules and have		
	Do you have district	Have you acquired	Are you taking care to	you taught them?		
Set ground	emergency phone	course guides,	get enough sleep and			
rules for	numbers?	curriculum guides,	nutrition?	Are you acquainted with		
communicating		class outline, and goal		discipline procedures/		
and relating.	Do you know who's who?	statements for	Do you know about the	policies (playground rules,		
	(staff list, grade level	subjects assigned?	social committee in	lunch room rules, etc.) of the		
Possible	members, key resource		your building?	school?		
Questions for	people, team leader,	Have you reviewed				
Your Intern	department chair, mentor,	the standards to the		Do you have copies of		
	office manager, aides,	core statements for		necessary forms- referral,		
	secretaries, counselors,	each subject at your		attendance, hall passes?		
What do you	custodians, nurse, etc.)	grade level?				
need?				Are you satisfied with your		
	Do you have a map of the	Do you have		procedures for classroom		
How can I help	school?	necessary supplies to		routines (passing out		
you?		begin the year (tape		materials, taking		
Λ h a t la a t al a	Are you familiar with the	staples, construction		attendance, collecting		
About what do	physical setup of the school	paper, etc)?		assignment, etc.)?		
you feel most concerned?	and location of key	Have you sketched		la vour classroom act up to		
concerned:	facilities? (staff rest- rooms,	Have you sketched curriculum plans for		Is your classroom set up to optimize learning		
	staff phones, AV areas,	the first month?		(organization of desks,		
	professional library, copy	the mst month:		tables, supplies, assignment		
	machines, staff lounge)	Have you planned the		baskets, bulletin boards,		
	Have you reviewed the	first week in detail?		etc.)?		
	faculty handbook, student					
	handbook, school calendar,	Have you had your		Are you happy with your		
	policies and procedures?	mentor critique your		chosen plan book format?		
	policido dila procedareo.	plans?		Does it work for you? What		
	Are you familiar with lunch			needs to change?		
	procedures?	Have you reviewed				
	,	your students' I.E.Ps,		Have you set up a grade		
	Do you understand class/	medical records,		book?		
	teacher schedules, extra	reading records				
	duty responsibilities?	(OPAL, DRA) and		Do you have a system for		
		cumulative folders?		keeping track of parent		
	How are parents involved	What are the		contacts, discipline		
	with the school (volunteers,	implications for you?		referrals?		
	parent club, local school			1		
	advisory committee)?			Have you checked for any		
				legal/custody issues?		

October	Informational	Instructional	Personal	Management	Results	Collaboration
001020.	What district professional	Do you have long-	How are you using	Are you reinforcing	Are you familiar with	Which of the following
Logistics	development courses are	range plans for the	time? Have you set up	expectations?	state assessments,	will you do this month:
How do you	available to you? Have you	first quarter? (units,	a priorities list?		portfolio, and local	,
monitor and	registered for any of them?	timelines, materials		How is the implementation	assessments? Have	Observe a colleague.
adjust your		organized, etc.)	Who could help you	of rules, procedures and	you put assessment	3.1
operating	Have you prepared your		with some tasks?	management system going?	dates in your	Share teacher resource
styles in order	sub folder and emergency	Have you checked			calendar?	materials.
to build the	sub plans?	your pacing	What is working well for	Are you satisfied with the		
relationship?		(especially Math) with	you?	grade book? What will be	What additional	Attend a workshop with
	Have you set your goals for	your grade		your system for keeping	assessments do you	a colleague.
Possible	the year with your principal?	level/curricular		track of assessment	need?	
Questions for		teammates?		information?		Participate together in a
your Intern	Are you familiar with your				Are you beginning to	study group session.
	school's supervision and	Are you modeling		Are you grading, recording,	save samples of	
What is the	evaluation process? Have	what you expect from		and returning those tasks	student work to	Videotape a lesson and
biggest issue	you discussed these with	students?		you feel are important for	share with parents at	critique.
facing you?	your principal?			feedback as soon as	conferences and use	
				possible?	as possible	Exchange an article
What problems	Are you familiar with your				exemplars in the	from a professional
have you	district (building) policies for			Are you nearing the end of	future?	journal.
encountered?	celebrating holidays in the			DRA/OPAL testing?		Mast for a breakfast
Have are very	classroom setting?				Are you familiar with	Meet for a breakfast
How are you taking care of					the district's teacher	discussion.
yourself?					evaluation	Read and discuss a
yoursell?					document?	professional book.
					document:	professional book.
						Review student work
						together.
						Other

		T		1 ==		
November	Informational	Instructional	Personal	Management	Results	Collaboration
	What statewide	What are the	Are you meeting your	Are the behaviors of any		Are you familiar with
Logistics	professional development	instructional issues	goals?	students challenging for		parent/teacher
Have you set	activities are available?	that are most difficult		you? What might you do?		conferencing
time to meet?		for you?	How are you taking			procedures and
	What contract obligations		care of yourself?			techniques?
Possible	pertain to you?	Are you setting up a		Is there a need to make		
Questions for		demonstration lesson	Do you know what	referrals to the educational		Have you tried using
Your Intern:	Have you recorded the	and making time for	health and wellness	support team in your		e-mail to check in with
	dates for parent	debriefing with your	supports are offered in	building?		your mentor?
What is the	conferences in your	mentor?	your school or			
biggest issue	gradebook/planbook?		outside your school?			Have you considered
facing you?	3	What new	(Wellness Program,	Do you know the procedure		membership in any
,		instructional	HELP People, YMCA)	for referring students to the		professional
What problems		strategy(s) might you		building support services		organizations?
have you		try this month?		team?		organizations:
encountered?		a y ans monar:		team:		Have you subscribed to
Choodinored:		Have you revisited				any professional
How are you		your core curriculum				journals?
		documents to be sure				Journals !
taking care of yourself?						
yoursell?		your instruction is				
		aligned to the				
		standards?				
		Have you reviewed				
		the District Literacy				
		Guidelines?				

December	Informational	Instructional	Personal	Management	Results	Collaboration
December	Are you familiar with your	Have you used any of	Are you getting done	Have you kept up needed	Are you developing	Have you set a time to
Logistics	school's emergency	your samples of	what you need and	contact with parents?	and using classroom	observe your mentor in
Have you met	dismissal plans? Have you	student work as	want to get done?	·	assessments?	the classroom and to
on your	checked your students'	exemplars?				debrief afterwards?
scheduled	emergency dismissal		Have you checked your	Have you continued to	Do you have an	
meeting	forms?	"Testing" is just	priorities list to see if	collect samples of student	assessment plan for	
dates?	Do you know the district	around the corner Do you know who is	what you are doing is	work?	units of study?	
Possible	procedures for snow days?	exempt from	meeting your priority areas?		Have you checked to	
Questions for	procedures for snow days.	standardized testing,			be sure your	
Your Intern:		who has test mods,	Do you have plans for		assessments match	
		and how many	R&R during the holiday		what you are	
What is the		support staff you will	break?		teaching and that	
biggest issue		need?			both are aligned to	
facing you?					the standards?	
What problems						
have you						
encountered?						
Is there one						
we might work						
on solving						
together?						
How are you						
taking care of yourself?						
yoursen:						

January	Informational	Instructional	Personal	Management	Results	Collaboration
oandary	mormational	Are you preparing	Are you eating well and	What are your long- range	Have you begun	Have you
Logistics		students for state and	getting some exercise?	plans for second semester?	preparing for the	reflected with your
Are you		local assessments if			next reporting	mentor on the first
meeting at the		applicable?		Have you kept up needed	period?	semester?
scheduled		A war a saa a sain da sa		contact with parents?	\\/\batata	Have very actively reals
meeting times?		Are you giving practice tests and			What standardized assessments do you	Have you set your goals for the second
unies:		using exemplars for			have? What do you	semester?
Have you set		discussion?			need? Do you know	ociniostei :
future meeting					the dates?	
times?						
Possible						
Questions for						
Your Intern						
What have						
been the high						
points of this semester?						
Semester:						
What have you						
learned?						
What do you						
hope to						
change?						

	T	T	-	1	1	
February	Informational	Instructional	Personal	Management	Results	Collaboration
	Have you checked out the	Are you preparing	Do you have plans for	Have you followed up on		Which of the following
Logistics	on-line curriculum	students for state and	R&R during February	any referrals that were		will you do this month:
	resources?	local assessments if	break?	made to your building Child		
Are you		applicable?		Study Team?		Observe a colleague.
meeting at	Are you familiar with		Have you made an			coccord a compagner
your	resources available from	Are you giving	effort to connect with			Attend a workshop with
scheduled	Federal Programs,	practice tests and	other new teachers to			a colleague.
						a colleague.
times?	including Title 1 and 2?	using exemplars for	support one another?			
		discussion?				Videotape a lesson and
Possible						critique.
Questions for						
Your Intern						Exchange an article
						from a professional
What is the						journal.
biggest issue						,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
facing you?						Meet for a breakfast
lacing you?						
\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\						discussion.
What problems						
have you						Read and discuss a
encountered?						professional book.
How are you						Review student work
taking care of						together.
yourself?						Other:
yoursell?						Other.

Logistics Ace you meeting at the scheduled times? Possible Cluestions for Your intern What is the biggest issue facing you? What poblems have you encountered? How are you taking care of yourself? Any your meeting your bordy areas. Are you getting times added to the second the state and to call assessments if applicable? Are you setting time added times? Are you printing the scheduled times? Are you stilling time added times? Are you printing the scheduled times? Are you stilling time added times? Are you part of the concentration of the concentration of the scheduled times? Are you at a still time or concentration of the scheduled times? Are you at a still time or concentration of the scheduled times? Are you at thing time added times? Are you atting time added times? Are you atting time added times? Are you atting time added to do sometiming time added to do sometiming time during Spring break? Are you atting time added to do sometiming time added to do sometiming time added to do sometiming time and times and times are timed. Are you atting time added times? Are you atting time added times? Are you atting time added to do sometime time and time and time and times are timed at the and to accommendate state and to accommendate state and to accommend the port card? Are you prepared for parent construer. Are you atting time added times? Are you atting time and time	Anril	Informational	Instructional	Personal	Management	Results	Collaboration
	Are you meeting at the scheduled times? Possible Questions for Your Intern What is the biggest issue facing you? What problems have you encountered? How are you taking care of	from necessary support staff in preparing for parent	students for state and local assessments if applicable? Are you giving practice tests and using exemplars for	priority areas? Are you setting time aside for exercise, relaxation, family and friends? Have you planned to do something fun during	planning and schedule to accommodate state and local assessments if appropriate? Are you prepared for parent conferences? What critical	assessments/grades for all the core curriculum descriptors on the	will you do this month: Observe a colleague. Share teacher resource materials. Attend a workshop with a colleague. Participate together in a study group session. Videotape a lesson and critique. Exchange an article from a professional journal. Meet for a breakfast discussion. Read and discuss a professional book. Review student work together

Mov	Informational	Instructional	Dersenel	Managament	Deculto	Collaboration
May	Do you know the	Instructional Are you preparing	Personal	Management	Results Have you started	Have you checked the
Logistics	school/district policies	students for state and			your spring DRA	schedule for summer
	regarding special end- of –	local assessments if			assessments?	coursework or
Are you	year activities, assemblies	applicable?				workshops? Did you
meeting at	and parties?	''			Have you assessed	register for any of them?
your	·	Are you giving			all the required core	
scheduled	Do you know the end of	practice tests and			curriculum	
times?	year procedures for	using benchmarks for			descriptors on the	
	completing student	discussion?			report card?	
Possible	records?	Lleve vev ekstebed				
Questions for		Have you sketched				
Your Intern		your curriculum plan for the next 6 weeks?				
		Have you asked your				
Mhat problems		mentor to critique it?				
What problems have you						
encountered?						
onoodinorod.						
How are you						
taking care of						
yourself?						

June Have you set up a time to share how the year went for both of you? How will you give closure to your collaboration? Have you shared end of the year procedures with your Intern?	Informational What are the processes and procedures for closing out school?	Instructional Have you checked your course of instruction against the core curriculum? Are there any areas you missed? How will you address these areas differently for the upcoming year?	Personal How will you celebrate the successful end of this school year? About what do you feel proud? What do you most want to change next year?	Management Have you recorded end of the year grades in student portfolios, cumulative folders and records? Have you completed report cards? Have you returned books, keys, and stored materials/equipment?	Results	Collaboration Have you set up a time to meet with your mentor and reflect upon the school year?
---	---	--	--	--	---------	---