WINSLOW TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT 2023- 2024 DISTRICT MENTORING PLAN



H. Major Poteat, Ed.D., Superintendent

District Profile Sheet

2023-2024 District Teacher Mentoring Plan

Name of District: Winslow Township School District

District Code: 07

County Code: 5820

District Address: 40 Coopers Folly Road

Atco, New Jersey 08801

Chief School Administrator: Dr. H. Major Poteat

Mentoring Program Contact: Mr. Dion Davis

Contact Phone Number: 856-767-2850 ext. 7521

Type of District: K-12

Please provide the following information:

Number of novice teachers with a Certificate of Eligibility: 2

Number of novice teachers with a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing: 16

Number of novice special education teachers with a Standard license: 0

Number of Mentors: 18

Identify the number of novice teachers in the following areas:

K-6:10

7-8: 1

9-12: 7

Special Education (all grades): 3

District Board of Education Approval Form

District: Winslow Township

County: Camden

	Con	pleted	Comments			
	Yes	No				
Section 1: District Profile						
a. District profile sheet	X					
b. Board of Education approval form	X					
c. Explanation	X					
Section 2: Needs						
a. Current assessment of mentoring program	X					
b. Current needs of district mentoring plan	X					
Section 3: Vision and Goals						
a. Mentoring program vision	X					
b. Mentoring program goals	X					
Section 4: Mentor Selection						
a. Guidelines for selection of mentors	X					
b. Application process and criteria for	X					
selection of mentors						
Section 5: Roles and Responsibilities	X					
Section 6: Professional Learning	X					
Components for Mentors			2			
Section 7: Professional Learning	X					
Components for Novice Teachers						
Section 8: Action Plan for						
Implementation						
Section 9: Resource Options Used	X					
Section 10: Funding Resources	X					
Section 11: Program Evaluation	X					

District Board of Education Approval Notification

District Board of Education Approval Notification: County Superintendent

The Winslow Township School District Board of Education has reviewed and approved the local mentoring plan. The Winslow Township Board of Education assures that the submitted plan is aligned with the New Jersey Professional Standards for Teachers and meets or exceeds the minimum requirements of the mentoring regulations in *N.J.A.C.*6A: 9C-5.

A copy of the district profile sheet and the board of education's review of the plan have been attached.

(Signature of Superintendent)

(Signature of Board of Education President)

(Date)

Explanation of how the plan aligns with the New Jersey Professional Standards for Teachers

This mentoring plan addresses all of the Professional Standards for teachers. The plan is designed to guide the mentor and the novice teacher through a successful mentoring experience. The novice teacher should gain an understanding of learner development, learning environments, content knowledge, application of content, and instructional strategies (Standards 1,3,4,5,8).

In order to become an effective and caring teacher, it is important that the teacher gains an understanding of how children learn, that each child develops into a unique individual with diverse needs, personalities, social and intellectual abilities. Understanding that children are uniquely different in various ways, it is imperative that the novice teacher becomes resourceful at planning for and addressing the needs of the "Special Needs" child (Standards 1,2,3,6,7,8). Addressing the needs of all children, and creating a stimulating learning environment for them, helps to ignite in children an enthusiasm for learning. The experienced teacher, the mentor, accepts this charge as a part of the mentoring process and helps the novice teacher distinguish between acceptable and normal developmental stages of growth and academic development, and helps the novice teacher learn how to create stimulating learning opportunities for the student (Standards 1,2,3,11).

As the building administrator and the mentor work with the novice teacher acquainting him or her with the school environment, the novice teacher should learn through modeling, the importance of building a positive relationship between school and home. A key component of student success can largely be contributed to the relationship between home and school, therefore appropriate and effective communication with parents paves the way to a healthy and rewarding partnership for all stakeholders, especially the child (Standard 10).

All professional development opportunities that are made available to the teachers will be available to the novice teacher. Based upon observations during the mentoring process, the administrator and mentor may direct/suggest professional development opportunities to the novice teacher (Standard 9).

Section 2: Needs Assessment

Current Assessment of mentoring program

During the 2022- 2023 school year, novice teachers completed a survey after the first marking period to provide feedback on the mentoring process. The *Mentoring Feedback Survey* asked the novice teachers to respond to YES or NO statements regarding the type of support they received from their mentor (i.e. "I communicate regularly with my mentor", "My mentor provided assistance and helped me develop my SGO", "I understood what was expected of me as a novice teacher"). The survey also asked the novice teacher to provide commentary on the training/information they felt was missing that would have provided an easier transition for their first year of teaching; to list the top three supports, resources or trainings that helped them during the year; and to cite training they would like to see in the future. Overall, the survey revealed that the majority of the novice teachers felt informed and supported by their mentor, principal and district administrators. Specifically, the novice teachers cited the New Teacher Orientation held in August; the on-going professional development (imbedded PD) on Achieve 3000 and Think Central; the Genesis grade book and lesson plan workshops presented by the Educational Technology Supervisor; and the monthly building meetings to review district expectations, as invaluable. The survey validated that most teachers had a great year with support and collaboration from their mentor, Principal and district administration.

Current needs of district mentoring plan

Great care and thought are taken into consideration when assigning mentors to novice teachers. All assigned mentors are viewed as "Master Teachers" and experts in their craft. During the 2021-2022 school year, the Mentor Training handbook and the Mentor Training professional development workshop were revamped. Mentor training workshops were presented in 2021-2022 school year, 2022-2023 school year, and additional training workshops are scheduled for the 2023-2024 school year to rebuild the pool of trained mentors. Currently, we have 63 trained mentor.

Annually, letters are mailed in mid July to both mentors and novice teachers, encouraging them to establish contact prior to New Teacher Orientation. Additionally, the New Teacher Orientation Program, which takes place in August, consists of two days of intensive training dealing with Math and Language Arts initiatives; use of portfolios; SGO process and the establishment of benchmarks; Genesis training (lesson planner and gradebook), IEP direct training, to name a few.

Section 3: Vision and Goals

Mentoring program vision

It is the vision of the Winslow Township School District to build a mentoring program that will equip novice teachers with the skills they need to become strong dedicated teachers, excel in developing programs that positively impact students' performance, acquire content area knowledge and how to effectively impart this knowledge onto students, to engage teachers in on-going training, collaboration and ultimately, to ensure that teachers have a supportive environment that will lead to teacher retention in the district, a love for the teaching field and retention in the teaching profession.

Mentoring program goals

The goals of our mentor program are to:

- Create a meaningful supportive and nurturing program for novice teachers
- Provide mentoring teachers with the skills and resources needed to effectively mentor the novice teacher
- Help the novice teacher learn to work with a diverse student body
- Tap into the creative potential of novice and mentoring teachers
- Promote the need for continuous professional growth
- Empower the novice teacher with skills necessary to be a successful teacher
- Build a climate of trust, promote positive relationship with superiors
- Develop mentors who excel in leading and motivating novice teachers

- Help novice teachers face problems with confidence and assurance
- Help novice teachers learn to respond quickly to new instructions, situations, methods and procedures
- Help novice teachers develop sound techniques to maximize learning
- Help novice teachers understand the need for and the effectiveness of hands-on learning
- Help the novice teacher recognize management problems and develop solutions
- Help the novice teacher recognize the important roles of responsibility and accountability
- Help the novice teacher develop effective communication skills so that the teacher is relaxed, confident and enjoyable
- Help the novice teacher learn to plan, organize and complete tasks in the most efficient manner
- Acquaint the novice teacher with and provide guidance in using various forms of student assessment, formative and summative
- Enhance the teacher's knowledge of and strategies related to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in order to facilitate student achievement
- Identify exemplary teaching skills and educational practices necessary to acquire and maintain excellence in teaching
- Assist the novice teacher in the performance of their duties and adjustment to the challenges of teaching

Section 4: Mentor Selection

Guidelines for selection of mentors:

Teachers who are selected to mentor novice teachers must meet the following criteria:

- Tenured in the district and viewed as a Master Teacher
- Completion of the application process and commitment to the terms and conditions noted on the application (visiting/observing novice teacher, sharing and modeling effective planning, communication, assessment, instructional and classroom management strategies, helping the novice teacher become familiar with the school procedures and grading policies, and documenting time and procedures spent with novice teacher) (Attached A & B)
- Skilled in employing effective Instructional Strategies
- Possess the traits of a responsive listener and effective communicator
- Promote harmony within the school environment
- Knowledgeable of the resources, policies, and practices of the district
- Possess excellent classroom management skills
- Respectful of the confidential nature of the mentor teacher/novice teacher relationship
- Willingness to invest the time needed to meet the professional needs of the novice teacher
- Demonstrates enthusiasm and commitment to the teaching
- Demonstrate leadership qualities and professionalism

Section 4: Mentor Selection

Application Process

It is the goal of the Winslow Township School district to recruit and train a group of committed mentors. The application process is as follows:

- Letter of recruitment is distributed to all tenured staff in the Spring.
- Mentor applications and recommendation forms are available through the Human Resources
 Office.
- Completed applications and recommendation forms are returned to the principal for review.
- The principal screens all applications and selects mentors using the mentor criteria selection checklist.
- All applications are then forwarded to the Director of Human Resources for training/placement.
- Based upon need, the principal pairs the mentor with the novice teacher.
- The Director of Human Resources notifies the mentor and novice teacher of the pairing.

Section 5A: Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for a successful mentoring program must be shared by all of the district's key stakeholders.

The District's Responsibilities:

- Ensure that each novice teacher is mentored
- Established procedures for mentor/novice teacher training
- Provide resources needed to support the Teacher Mentor Training program (including funds, teacher training resources, and appropriate stipends for substitute coverage)
- Select administrators to serve as members of the Professional Development Committee
- Ensure compliance with state regulations regarding evaluation of the novice teacher and utilization of state funds
- Ensure annual assessment of the Teacher Mentoring Program

Section 5B: Roles and Responsibilities

The Principal/Administrator's Responsibilities:

- Select mentors from the applicants based on the established mentor criteria
- Assign mentor to novice teacher as soon as possible
- Ensure mentor participation in district mentoring training program
- Provide mentor and novice teacher with a copy of the district's Mentoring Handbook of Guidelines for Mentors & Novice Teachers
- Monitor the on-going activities of the mentor/novice teacher
- Meet monthly with the mentor/novice teacher to support the mentoring process
- Review with the novice teacher the district and state evaluation tools
- Observe and evaluate the novice teacher according to district and state regulations
- Ensure that the mentor conducts monthly visits to novice teacher's class to observe the mentor teacher
- Require the mentor and novice teacher to document time spent during the mentoring process
- Serve as a facilitator of the mentoring activities (reviewing expectations, policies, mentoring fees, roles of the mentor/novice teacher, professional development and the Professional Standards for Teachers)
- When possible, provide for common planning time for the mentor and novice teacher

Section 5C: Roles and Responsibilities

Mentor's Responsibilities:

- Meet with novice teacher as soon as assignment is made to help acquaint the teacher to the district
- Attend all training workshops
- Serve as a role model in professional and classroom practices
- Meet with novice teacher weekly during the initial mentoring process and as frequently as needed by the novice teacher
- Visit and observe the novice teacher in his/her classroom setting and provide appropriate feedback in a non-evaluative manner (This should be done at least once/marking period)
- Serve as the ambassador of instructional support by sharing information and ideas with the
 novice teacher such as teaching strategies, classroom management, professional development
 ideas, effective communication, assessment, conferencing techniques, school procedures and
 policies, and procedures of the teachers' association.
- Serve as an objective observer who maintains confidentiality
- Serve as a collaborator who keeps an open mind and a non-judgmental view

Novice Teacher's Responsibilities:

- Meet regularly with the mentor
- Keep building administrator apprised of concerns, problems during the mentoring process (if the mentor/novice pairing is unacceptable or inappropriate, a new pairing can be made without penalty to either party)
- Participate in professional development opportunities
- Document time spent with the mentor
- Observe the mentor in the mentor's classroom

Sections 6 & 7: Professional Learning Components for Mentors and Novice Teachers

Section 6: Professional learning opportunities for mentors:

- Attendance at workshops
- College Courses
- Participation in district designed mentoring program
- Articulation with peers
- Books & Reference Materials
 - 1) Just Ask "Why Didn't I Learn This in College?"
 - 2) What Works in Schools Translating Research into Action
 - 3) Mentoring Matters: A Practical Guide to Learning Focused Relationships
 - 4) Clinical Practice Handbook
 - 5) Mentoring Across Boundaries
 - 6) The First Days of School
 - 7) Mentoring in 21st Century
 - 8) Mentoring Works
 - 9) Classroom Teaching Skills
 - 10) Mentoring the Beginning Teacher
 - 11) How to Get Things Done

Section 7: Professional learning opportunities for Novice Teachers:

- Attendance at workshops
- Participation in district workshops
- Articulation and informal observation with colleagues
- Observing mentor teachers

Mentoring Activities Checklist

MENTOR:	
	Signature
NEW TEACHER:	
	Signature

 $1^{st/2^{nd}}$ Marking Period Log due January 31, 2024 $3^{rd}/4^{th}$ Marking Period Log due May 31, 2024

VISIT = VISITATION TO CLASSROOM FOR OBSERVATION DEMO = DEMONSTRATION LESSON PROVIDED

CONF = CONFERENCE

Schedule		Type of Check or	Contact ie		Summary/Comments/Descriptions
Date	Time # of Minutes	Visit	Demo	Conf.	

Ruilding	Administrator's	Signature	
Dunung	Administrator 5	Signature	

Mentoring Activities Checklist

To help with planning, here's a checklist you might review, modify, and share with your mentee to help with the first six to nine weeks of school.

Instructional	
Planning	
	Review curriculum guides and general course syllabi
	Obtain teacher's edition of textbooks
	 Identify the major areas of instruction for the first four to six weeks
	 Look at the school calendar for the first six weeks. Develop a
	timeline of topics and skills for the time frame. Match your outline to the
2	mandated allotment of time required for each subject.
	Prepare a topic outline for the year.
Organizational	Troposo a vopre e de la constante de la consta
Policies and	
Procedures	
Troccation	 Review school policies and student handbooks. Specially check:
	Bus Duty
z	Homework policy
	Fields trips
	Dress code
	Emergency procedures (tornado, fire drills, injuries, etc.)
	Review school district policies/faculty handbook. Specifically check:
	Sick/personal leave procedures
	Conduct code
	Crisis plan
	Attendance
	Substitute procedures
0.	Grading procedures
	 Review the school goals and/or school improvement plans.
	 Find out about the school culture as it relates to:
	Induction orientation activities
	Staff development programs
	Teacher mentoring options
	Emphasis on professional development
	Reassignment and transfer procedures
	Supervision and evaluation
	Contracts, regulations, and waivers
Classroom	

Organization	
	Think about the first week of school and design the physical layout:
	Large group arrangement
	Small group areas
	Bulletin boards
	Quiet/time-out area
	Position of your desk
	Organization of materials and supplies
	Filing system
	Traffic flow
	Seating arrangement and seating charts
	Plan how to handle/record daily routines and student Interactions:
	Entering the room
	Assigning seats
	Lunch money and charges
	Receipt of books
	Gradebooks
	Attendance records
	Absentees' excuses
	Lesson Plans
	Textbook distribution
	 Plan how to manage student behavior:
	Establishing class rules and procedures
	Enforcing rules and consequences fairly
	Teaching class rules and procedures
	Helping students to monitor and self-correct their own behavior
	Minimizing transitions between learning tasks
	Establishing a businesslike climate
	Setting reasonable expectations
Instructional	
Preparation	
	 Assess lesson plans:
	Teacher directed, motivating, differentiation, integration of technology
	Directions are easy to follow and not overly complicated
	Students work more as a large group until teacher knows
	students and classroom management procedures are routine
	Size up activities, projects, groups and learning centers:
	Planned in advance and match learning objectives
	Procedures and sequence of events are clearly described
	Resources and materials ordered/prepared well ahead.
	Develop substitute teacher plans: Develop substitute teacher plans:
	Includes the daily schedule for each class
	Includes the seating roster for each class
	Lesson plans are detailed and all materials are duplicated, ready for distribution
	and easily found in your room
	 Think about supervision and evaluation:

	Review the school evaluation form
	Ask for a preliminary assessment before the official one to get sense of
	evaluator's supervisory style and school focus for teaching
Managing	evaluator's supervisory style and school focus for teaching
Individuals'	
Differences	and the second s
Differences	 Identify student needs and interests:
	As a class
	As individuals
	Assess and evaluate students by:
	Recording daily grades
	Observing students
	Varying the type of assessment (cognitive, affective, psychomotor)
,	Placement of students
2	Assign students to groups:
	Devising procedures for group work
	Communicating expectations to group members, including roles and
	assignments
	Finding out about cooperative learning and how groups function
	 Develop modified education plans for special needs students
	 Design alternative lessons and activities for students with special needs
	 Formulate homework policy:
	Amount and frequency
	Weight and impact on course grade
	Coordination with team or department
Implementing	
Classroom	
Management Plan	
	Establish rules and procedures and post
	Reinforce positive behavior routinely
	Enforce rules and procedures consistently
	Document student behavior systematically
	 Design a classroom management plan and share with peers and
	administrative team
Home-School	
Communications	
**	• Orient parents at night meeting:
	Handout on course syllabi and grading procedures
	Student expectations
	How parents can help
	Develop personal communication skills: Oral Expression
	Oral Expression Voice tone and modulation
	TO COMPANY COMPANY COMPANY CANADA CAN
	Correct grammar and mechanics Clear directions
	Clear directions

	Written Expression
	Correct grammar and mechanics
	Clear and concise writing
	Professional yet inviting tone
	 Develop ways to get students' work home
	 Develop a descriptive rather than a judgmental communication style when
,	communicating with students, parents, and peers
	 Prepare report cards/evaluation for students:
2	Filling in information accurately
	Marking attendance
	Determining grades
	Reporting student conduct
	Checking for signatures and conference requests
	Monitoring professional development by:
	Observing/modeling good practices of/for a colleague
	Videotaping your lessons and assessing your performance
	Attending staff-development workshops
,	Seeking feedback from a colleague
8	Preparing for your first official evaluation

Section 8: Implementation of Mentoring Activities

	Date	Responsible
1. Mentor/Novice orientation		
Workshops will address:		
 Creating a climate for learning 		
 Preparing for the first day and 		
week of school		
 State required Right to Know 	<i>5</i> /	
to training		
 Technology (e-mail, 		
attendance, and grade book)		,
 Acceptable policy for internet 		
 Review of district curriculum 		
 Personnel related benefits and 		
certification procedures.		
2. Quarterly meeting to discuss:		
First Meeting:		
 Lesson plans 		
 Substitute plans 		
 Time management 	¥1	
 School policies/procedures 		*
 Grading procedures/parental 		
notification	<u> </u>	
Effective classroom		
management skills		
Instructional strategies which		
impact student achievement		
and diverse learners		
Networking opportunities for		
novice teachers Instructional strategies and	5	
• Instructional strategies and specific classroom situations		
• Parent communication, note		
writing, conferences, phone		
calls, progress reports and		
report cards.		
	0	
 Students with special needs, in 		
class support, and writing IEP		
reports		
 Classroom management: 		
handling of bullying issues,		

disciplinary actions		
Meeting the needs of individual in a large styles.	<u>s</u>	
individualized learning styles,		
learning centers for differentiated instruction.		
D 11 11 11		'
Preventative discipline, homework practices,		
instructional strategies,		
grading, parent		
communications, student		7
motivation, and time		
management.		
Second Meeting:		
Difficult parents/conferences		
 Observation 		
 Standardized testing 		
procedures		
Third Meeting:		
Recommendation of student		
placement		
Field trips		
End of year procedures		
Fourth Meeting:		
 Review of school year and 		
mentoring process		
3. Provide Mentor Handbook to		p
both mentor and novice teacher		
which includes:		
Mentor observation model		1 - 2
Mentoring discussion topics		
Timeline of suggested		
activities		
Journal/documentation		
guidelines		

Section 9: Resource Options Used

Resources used to achieve the program's goals and objectives are:

- District, State and ESSA funding
- Personnel Resources Principals, Supervisors and Directors
- Commercially purchased reference and training materials
- District designed mentoring handbook and resources

Section 10: Funding Resources

Novice teachers will be responsible for compensation associated with mentoring services in the amount of \$550.00 for traditional route candidates and \$1,000.00 for alternate route candidates. This is a requirement by the New Jersey Department of Education, and Standard certification will not be granted until this obligation has been satisfied. Novice teachers will make two payments in the amount of \$275.00 (for traditional route candidates) or \$500.00 (for alternate route candidates). All mentor payments will be directed to my office for documentation purposes, after which time they will be forwarded to the respective mentor.

Section 11: Program Evaluation

During the 2021- 2022 school year, the Mentor Training Handbook and professional development workshop were updated based upon revisions made by the NJDOE. This update required all mentors to be retrained for continued participation in the program. During the 2021-2022 school year, 20 master teachers were trained. For the 2022-2023 school year, over 40 master teachers were trained. Additional training opportunities will be provided for the 2023-2024, with the hopes of growing our mentor pool to approximately 100 trained mentors by June 2024.

Based upon feedback from the mentor training sessions that took place in November 2022, the mentors reported that they found the training informative, relevant and useful to assist them in their role of supporting novice teachers. The mentors also commented that the Mentor Training manual provided by the district served as a "great resource for talking points with their novice teacher".

I am proud to report that the majority of the 2022- 2023 novice teachers responded favorably to the District's mentoring activities (New Teacher Orientation, mentor support, peer to peer observation, building based meetings for novice teachers, and professional development workshops).

For the 2023-2024 school year, we will continue to provide professional development opportunities to train new mentors and follow-up workshops for mentors and mentees, to ensure the success of the novice teacher program. We will also continue to provide "buddy teachers" to educators new to the district, but not new to the teaching profession.

APPENDIX A

Mentoring Program Feedback

As we conclude the first marking period, please give an honest assessment of the mentoring program to date.

Please respond	Y	(Yes)	or N	1 ((No)	to	each	of	the	foll	owing	stat	temen	ts:
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APPENDIX B

Teacher Mentor Application

I am interested in being considered for a position of mentor. I understand that the role of the mentor is a critical factor in the success of a beginning teacher.

Directions: Answer the following questions and forward the completed form to Mr. Dion Davis, Director of Human resources, no later than May 30 th .									
Name		School	Grade						
Current Degree Status		Certification(s)							
Years of Classroom Experience		Year you received mentor training							
1.	What abilities and experience for a beginning teacher?	s do you possess that would make yo	ou an effective mentor						
2.		in the past? If so, reflect on the important review of your interactions with that to							
3.		t activities you have completed withi attended or presented, college course							
4.	List professional publications last two years.	(other than NEA, NJEA publication	s) read within the						

APPENDIX C

Mentoring Recommendation Form

Mentor Applicant									
School	Subject/Grade Level								
The above named tenure possesses the essential in professional attitude to estandards for Teaching.	nstructional skills, knov	wledge, o	ganizat	ion, cla	ssroom	manage	ment, and		
Comments (please be sp	ecific as it relates to the	eir ability	to serve	e as a n	nentor):				
PLEASE SEAL THIS R WRITTEN ACROSSTH TO THE PERSONNEL	IE SEAL. RETURN T	O THE N							
Please rank this a with 5 being extr	applicant in regards to lemely effective.	now effec	tive you	ı feel th	ey will	be as a r	nentor,		
For administrativ	re purposes only:	1	2	3	4	5			
Recommendation subn	nitted by:								
Name							-		
Position									
School/Building							-		
Signature									