



SAMPLE MATERIAL

Ninth Grade Mentoring Program Description

Jefferson Davis High School, Texas

Topic: Dropout Prevention

Practice: Adult Advocates

Jefferson Davis High School's Ninth Grade Mentoring Program pairs ninth graders with a staff member (e.g., teacher, nurse, counselor) who will act as an advocate and offer support to ensure the student is keeping up homework, attending school regularly, and getting the needed social-emotional support. As explained in this program description, the goal is to help students as they cope with the transition to high school. To ensure students quickly receive support in the face of challenges, the school sends mentors text message alerts when one of their students' grades drop or if they are absent from class.

Administrators can use the information presented in this sample material to design a similar program at their schools. To learn more about Davis High's Ninth Grade Mentoring Program and how it works, view the videos *Paying Attention to Students* and *Treat Us as Your Own*.

NINTH GRADE MENTORING PROGRAM JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL

In order to provide students with every opportunity to be successful in high school, Davis Ninth Grade Academy created the ninth grade mentoring program. It is a well-known fact that the transition from junior high to high school can be quite challenging for students. It is for this reason that the ninth grade mentoring program was created.

The goal of the program is to pair up all incoming ninth grade student with an adult in the building that will be responsible for monitoring student attendance and academic progress, and over-all well-being. Ultimately we would like to have a mentor for every incoming ninth grade student. Unfortunately, if there is a shortage of adults in the building capable or willing to sponsor a ninth grader, we use grade and attendance records to select the student who are most at risk and we pair them up first.

We ask teachers, nurse, communities in school staff members, counselors, administrators, and school staff to sponsor one to four students each.

Breakdown of the program:

1. We solicit adults in the building to volunteer to be mentors.
2. Once we have collected all of the volunteers, we create of spreadsheet of all of the freshman students and place it on the common drive.
3. Each mentor then goes to the spreadsheet and put his/her name next to the student(s) he or she wishes to mentor. Any student left without a mentor is added to a counselor or an administrators list of mentees.
4. The Parent Connect system is what we use to keep track of student attendance and progress. Once every student has a mentor, each mentor is registered on the Parent Connect system.
5. Anytime one of his/her mentees is absent, the mentor will receive an e-mail, a text message or both. Anytime one of his/her mentees has a grade average of less than 70 in any class, the mentor will receive an email, a text message or both.

Example:

The student Garcia, Alya (114****) had the following attendance events on 05/16/2011:

Period A1: Absent

Houston ISD

6. Once the mentor receives an alert, the student is called to have a meeting with the mentor and a corrective action plan is created. Some mentors set up meetings with the student's teachers in order to create the most comprehensive corrective action plan possible.

The program has been successful, and we hope to continue building the program each year. One of the goals for next school year is to have a mentor/mentee social once a semester in order to share ideas and celebrate successes.