

## Mentoring Statewide Program FAQ

### CERTIFICATION QUESTIONS

**Q. A teacher is going to be doing alternative certification. Will this completely fulfill the teacher's requirements to ultimately obtain her alternative teaching certificate upon completion of the mentor program?**

A. Participation in the mentor program will satisfy the district mentoring requirements for an alternative certification teacher. The new teacher will still need to complete the other alternative certification requirements, which are laid out at <http://doe.sd.gov/oatq/altcert.aspx> . The alternative certification program shall consist of on-the-job classroom training, district mentorship and orientation, six credits in educational pedagogy, South Dakota Indian Studies, human relations, and state Praxis II examinations. Candidates have three years to complete the program. Once the candidate has successfully completed all the required coursework, the Praxis II examinations, and has received a positive recommendation from his/her on-the-job mentor, the candidate must file the five-year alternative certification application.

**Q. I will be renewing my license in 2018. Will being a mentor with the state completely fulfill my requirements with the state to renew my license?**

A. Upon completion of the two year program, certified teachers will have met the requirements to renew their certificate. However, the teacher will still need to complete the suicide awareness and prevention training. More details about the training are located at <http://doe.sd.gov/SuicidePrevention/>.

**Q. How do mentors and new teachers show that they have met the requirements to renew their certificate when renewing their license with the state?**

A. The State will keep track of it and will give teachers a certificate of completion

**Q. What if someone renews their contract in between year one and year two of the mentoring program?**

A. They would not be able to use the program to do their renewal. The whole program would need to be completed. It would go towards the next renewal (the next five years)

**Q. Will mentors and new teachers receive graduate credit in addition to meeting the requirements to renewing their certificate?**

A. For the statewide program, we are considering graduate credit in addition to meeting the renewal. District-run programs would have to work with a university to offer graduate credit to their teachers

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

**Q. When do mentors get the mentoring toolkit?**

A. Mentors will receive the toolkit at the mentor training. Mentors and new teachers will have time at the Kick-Off to explore the toolkit.

**Q. I have a student teacher this fall. The student teacher will officially be hired in December or January. Is there a way we can participate in the program?**

A. Yes they can participate since the statewide mentoring program is mainly only taking place during the spring semester.

**Q. Is it possible for two mentors to mentor the same new teacher and split the workload?**

A. No, each new teacher will be paired with only one mentor

**Q. Do the mentors get paid \$1,200 both years or over two years?**

A. Mentors get paid \$1,200 each year for a total of \$2,400 over two years.

**Q. If a mentor or teacher moves to a different district in year two, does the new district have to support the mentor or teacher?**

A. The State will work with the district, mentor, and teacher to make sure the program and teacher supports continue regardless of the transition to a new district.

**Q. How many teachers can a mentor support?**

A. This is dependent upon the mentor's work load and comfort level, as well as, administrator's support. For some mentor's, it may be appropriate to only have one teacher. Keep in mind an administrator will need to sign off on all mentor applications.

**Q. Can a mentor add new teachers in year two?**

A. It is recommended that mentors keep their current teacher assignments for the two full years. However, if a new teacher needs support and the administrators and mentor are willing to take on another new teacher in year two, the state will consider it.

**Q. Can the administrator or principal fill out one sign off form for all teachers in their school?**

A. Yes, administrators can complete the form once for all participants or multiple times. If the district only has mentors, admin will not enter information in the new teacher table.

**Q. Is the program only for first-year teachers or can second-year teachers participate, too?**

A. The program is only for first-year teachers. The program is a two-year commitment, though.

**Q. Do retired teachers need administrative sign-off?**

A. Yes, retired teachers still need an administrator to sign off. In most cases, they will have their last administrator complete the administrative sign-off.

**Q. Is there only one kick-off in each of the locations?**

A. There are multiple kick-offs at each location. Below is the schedule. Mentors only need to attend **one** of these kick-offs with their new teacher(s).

- November 15, 16 - Chamberlain
- November 15, 16 - Watertown
- November 15, 16 - Pierre
- November 17, 18, 19 - Rapid City
- November 17, 18, 19 - Aberdeen
- November 17, 18, 19 - Sioux Falls

**DISTRICT-RUN PROGRAM QUESTIONS**

**Q. If a district already has a mentoring program, can they still apply for the district-run program?**

A. Yes, they can apply for the district-run program. The district will need to let the state know the mentor/new teacher pairing, the mentors will need to participate in the professional learning community, the mentor and new teacher need to meet for at least 34 hours, and both the mentor and new teacher need to attend one of the two-day summer academies. Mentors will then receive the annual \$1,200 upon completion of the requirements.

**Q. Can those that participate in the district-run program attend the kick-off?**

A. Yes they can attend the kick-off, given there is room.

**Q. How do the Statewide program and district program compare?**

A.

<b><u>Statewide Program</u></b>	<b><u>District-Run Program</u></b>
Districts can make mentor/new teacher pairing requests	Districts make the mentor/new teacher pairing requests
Mentors must participate in the SD Mentor Professional Learning Community (Mentor seminar and three monthly webinars). Reimbursements are available	Mentors must participate in the SD Mentor Professional Learning Community (Mentor seminar and three monthly webinars). Reimbursements are available
The Kick-Off is required (Reimbursements are available)	The Kick-Off is not a requirement
The State monitors to make sure requirements are met	The district monitors to make sure requirements are met
The State pays the mentors directly	The State pays the district which then pays the mentors
Mentors and new teachers must meet for at least 34 hours (minimum of 18 hours face-to-face)	Mentors and new teachers must meet for at least 34 hours (minimum of 18 hours face-to-face)
A \$500 substitute reimbursement for mentoring time will be shared between the new teachers district and the assigned mentor's district, dependent on use.	No substitute reimbursement available for mentoring
The state is looking into offering graduate credit upon completion of the program	The state is looking into offering graduate credit upon completion of the program