



Alaska Statewide Mentor Project

How does Mentoring work?

The Alaska Statewide Mentor Project (ASMP) is designed to induct early career teachers into professional learning environments based on the norms of collaboration, high expectations, equity, ongoing inquiry, and reflection on practice. Working in partnership with a mentor, new teachers build structures that influence the way they learn—and the way they teach—so each will become the teacher whose classroom practices are ready to meet the needs of tomorrow's children, as well as those of today.

But Alaska Statewide Mentors do more than help new teachers survive—they help them understand that excellent teachers build their practice one day at a time, from the first day they step into a classroom. Mentors encourage novices to set high expectations for themselves and their students, convey a belief in the power of the classroom teacher to affect student learning, and hold themselves personally accountable for the academic success of their students.

Who are the Alaska Statewide Mentors?

Alaska Statewide Mentors are master teachers from across the state selected to work one-on-one with early career teachers. Alaska Statewide Mentors are fully released from classroom teaching by their schools, and receive ongoing professional development throughout their two-year tenures. Above all, Alaska Statewide Mentors are guides to help new teachers find inspiration in the profession, and to stay energized as they face new challenges!

Who gets an Alaska Statewide Mentor?

First- and second-year beginning teachers hired in participating districts have the opportunity to work with an Alaska Statewide Mentor. Unlike the induction models of many professions, the mentoring relationship is not evaluative: the Alaska Statewide Mentor is a sounding board, problem solver, advocate, and even an extra set of hands.

This year, with the US DoE Investments in Innovation (i3 grant), Alaska Humanities Forum (C3) Grant and SPED Gains for Alaska grants, ASMP continues to serve urban and rural districts while conducting rigorous research to validate the ASMP model.

Interested in obtaining mentoring services from the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project?

INFORMATION
ON REVERSE

Why have a Mentor?

- Faster progress toward student achievement
- Understanding of district initiatives
- Retention of efforts otherwise lost to recruitment
- Feedback from an experienced teacher
- Relationship that is non-evaluative
- Planning and modeling lessons
- Strategies for managing students
- Understanding of the professional culture
- Resources to facilitate instruction
- Reflection on practice and progress

A quality mentor develops a more effective teacher in less time.

What will the Project provide?

- No direct costs to districts
- Full-release quality Mentors
- Travel to/from your site
- Equipment and teaching resources
- Opportunities for professional development

What do we ask districts to provide?

- Secure place for belongings
- Suitable place for sleeping
- Access to the Internet
- Access to on-site cooking facilities
- Transportation to/from the airport (rural sites)

What do you think?

We're always looking for ways to improve our communication about the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project, so **we want to hear from you!** How often would you like to hear from the Project? each quarter? each semester? monthly? yearly? Are there specific areas about the Project that you'd like to know more about?

Please email your suggestions to Jan Littlebear:

jjlittlebear@alaska.edu

Interested in obtaining mentoring services from the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project?

The Alaska Statewide Mentor Project is a grant-funded project with limited resources. We dedicate as much of our allotted funding as possible to hiring mentors and arranging their travel, and in FY16 we can continue to fund thirty (30) mentor teachers to work with early career teachers across the state. Fortunately, ASMP requires **no direct costs** to districts or schools for mentoring services. To help us create an effective environment for mentoring with early career teachers, we do ask rural districts and schools to pick up mentors from the airport, provide a secure place for belongings while at the site, provide access to Internet and cooking resources, and arrange a clean place for sleeping.

The Alaska Statewide Mentor Project will place mentors with early career teachers in elementary education, special education, and the content areas of Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies. Please keep in mind that "early career teachers new to the profession" is intended to mean "teachers in their first or second years in the classroom," but not teachers who are new only to your district or to Alaska.

If you would like to enroll your district for mentoring services in the 2016-2017 school year, please email Jan Littlebear (jjlittlebear@alaska.edu).

What research does the Project conduct?

The Alaska Statewide Mentor Project conducts primary research in pursuit of the following research goals:

- Improved teacher retention
- Improved student achievement

To facilitate our study about this statewide mentoring program, the research team reviews the formative assessment documents that are part of the mentoring sessions. Our review of these documents is to investigate and identify correlations, patterns, or connections between practice and outcomes. Participation in the study is optional; our research is intended to find out how the mentoring program is being implemented and how this program is influencing beginning teachers and their practice.

Do you have specific questions about the research conducted by ASMP? Please contact Dr. Laurel Dietz (ldietz@alaska.edu).



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<http://asmp.alaska.edu/>