



# MENTOR RUSD

Greetings,

Thank you very much for considering becoming a mentor for a student in RUSD. As you know, “it takes a village to raise a child.” I would like to present a volunteer opportunity for you that will have a major impact on the life of a child—mentoring a RUSD student. This initiative has the support of the RUSD administration and School Board, principals, and staff as, well Racine city and county governments. MENTOR RUSD has been active in the elementary and middle schools in RUSD for five years.

**Who are these Mentors?** Mentors in our program are members of the Racine community; people who just want to help kids. These mentors are screened and certified through the Racine Unified School District’s WINGS system, trained, and then they are matched with students in RUSD by the Mentor Coordinator. Mentors are not teachers or counselors, nor saviors. They are simply caring adults whose friendship and support can help children to do better in school, to stay out of trouble, and to learn better ways to handle their problems.

**What is Mentoring?** Mentoring takes many forms. It can be helping with school work, talking about goals, or working on a fun and interesting game or puzzle. It can be reading together, sharing a hobby, or maybe even just a time to talk about “stuff.” The most important thing is to build a trusting and supportive relationship. Mentoring provides another positive role model for student, some of whom face some significant challenges. Ideally, our mentoring mode will devote half of the time to academics and half toward building the positive relationship with the student through various activities.

**When does Mentoring take place?** Mentoring will take place at the student’s school, ideally for about an hour one day a week. The time and day depend on the mentee and mentor’s schedules. Most of the schools have Lighted Schoolhouse or After Zone programs both before and after school, which is time we can also use. There may also be time available during the school day, as arranged with the teacher... With parental or guardian permission, some meetings may take place outside of the school setting.

**Mentor Training** MENTOR RUSD requires that mentors attend a two hour mentor training workshop. Mentors receive valuable insight and training into the mentoring process, and they will receive a Mentor Tool-Kit, a booklet with information about the development of children, valuable mentoring tips, and activities and a copy of *The Mentor’s Field Guide*, a valuable book presenting strategies to deal with various mentoring issues.

I hope you will seriously consider this opportunity to impact the life of a child in a very positive way. Of course, you are welcome to contact me at the below address, phone or email. I look forward to a conversation about mentoring a Racine Unified student. The skills, knowledge, and personality that you bring to the match will have a lasting effect in the life of a child.

Sincerely,  
David Power  
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Racine Unified School District  
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