**2025-26 South Dakota Mentoring Program**

# Administrator Approval Form

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| District |  |
| School |  |
| School Principal or Administrator |  |
| E-mail & Phone Number |  |

**Enter the names of the mentor applicants below. Add additional rows if needed.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Mentor (s)** | **Teacher Email** | **Mentor Teacher SD Certificate Number** |
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|  |  |  |
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# Enter the names of the new teacher applicants below. Add additional rows if needed.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of New Teacher (s)** | **Teacher Email** | **New Teacher SD Certificate Number** |
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**We would like the Mentors/New Teachers to be paired as shown below: Add additional rows if needed. \*Please indicate if the two teachers are in different districts\***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Mentor** | **Name of New Teacher** |
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|  |  |
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**I, the undersigned, have read and understand the eligibility and program requirements for mentor applicant(s) and teacher(s) and give my permission for the following individuals to participate in the South Dakota Department of Education Statewide Mentoring Program.**

Building Principal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature & Date

Business Manager \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature & Date

**This form must be uploaded to New Teacher and Mentor Applications before September 2nd, 2025.**

**2025-2026 SOUTH DAKOTA MENTORING PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

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| --- | --- |
| **Mentors** | **New Teachers** |
| **Eligibility**Per SDAR 24:41:01:01  * At least five years of teaching experience, one of which is within the last seven years in a school or other education related field * Can document experience within the past seven years in an educational field relative to the Five Core Propositions of the National Board Professional Teaching Standards * Must hold a valid or expired South Dakota Teaching Certificate upon submitting application | EligibilityPer SDAR 24:41:01:01  * Must be a first- or second-year teacher employed by a South Dakota Public School (or started teaching no sooner than January of 2025) * Must hold a valid South Dakota Teaching Certificate upon submitting application |
| **Duration**  * A mentor will be selected to work with a beginning teacher for a period of two years | Duration  * New Teachers agree to participate in the mentor program for a period of two years |
| **Requirements**  * Must obtain administrative sign-off to participate in the program – *if the mentor is in a different district than the new teacher, both districts must approve of the pairing* * Participate in Online Mentor Seminar (Offered Fall 2025) * Participate in Online Kick-Off with assigned New Teacher (Offered Fall 2025) * Series of two online webinars * Provide 33 hours of mentoring (based on mentor guidelines to include South Dakota Framework for Teaching) during the 2025-2026 school year * Attend Summer Academy * Maintain Mentor log | Requirements  * Must obtain administrative sign-off to participate in the program **–** *if the new teacher is in a different district than the mentor, both districts must approve of the pairing* * Participate in Online Kick-Off with assigned Mentor (Offered Fall 2025) * Series of two online webinars * Participate in 33 hours of mentoring (based on mentor guidelines to include South Dakota Framework for Teaching) during the 2025-2026school year * Attend Summer Academy |
| **Compensation**  * All compensation and reimbursements go through the school district * Stipend of $1,000 for completion of all mentor requirements of the mentor program   + Stipends will be pro-rated based upon not meeting program requirements. * Upon completion of the two-year program, certified teachers will have met the credit requirements to renew their teacher certificate with two program completion certificates. *All program requirements must be met.* | Compensation  * **All compensation and reimbursements go through the school district**  Upon completion of the two-year program, certified teachers will have met the credit requirements to renew their teacher certificate with two program completion certificates. *All program requirements must be met.* Participation in the program and purchasing credits both years will satisfy the district mentoring requirements for alternative certification teachers for CTE or CTE Instructor Permit |

**2025-2026 Mentoring Program Changes**

* The State will provide funds to districts for mentor stipends of $1,000 per new teacher.
* The State will not provide funds to districts for travel reimbursement for mentors and new teachers.
* Mentor Seminars and Kick-Offs will be held as asynchronous online courses.
* The Mentoring Summer Academy will be a one-day 6-hour event.
* Mentoring hours will increase from 30 to 33 hours.
* New teachers and mentors who were first year participants in 2024-2025 must reapply to participate in the 2025-2026 Mentoring Program.