Identifying Your Mentee's Needs

Here are a few things you can do to identify your mentee's specific needs or problems.

- 1. Carefully Review Your Mentee's Report Cards. You can get a fairly clear picture of your mentee's school performance by reviewing his/her report cards, both present and past. (These can be obtained from the guidance office.) These reports will tell you about absences, tardies, unexcused absences, suspensions, and grades. Many reports also include specific comments and recommendations by teachers, the most important of which is "student achieving below apparent ability." Progress reports and report cards are essential for assessing the needs of your mentee.
- 2. Look For "Red Flags." As you look over the report, ask yourself a few questions: Is there a problem with attendance or conduct? Is the mentee always prepared for class? Is adequate progress being made? Most important of all, are my mentee's grades what they should be? If you notice any "red flags," you may want to address these issues. Grades are the key performance indicators for your mentee. A "C" grade point average is considered satisfactory, but is it sufficient for a college-bound mentee? "B" mentees may also be underachieving simply because they could be getting higher grades. Strictly speaking, mentees who have below a 2.0 grade point average are underachieving, but this interpretation could be extended to "C" and "B" mentees as well. We want our mentees to perform at the highest possible level in order to be prepared to succeed in college.
- 3. **Consult With Your Coordinator.** You have reviewed your mentee's report card and have noticed a marked drop in his/her grades. The first thing you should do is to share your concern with your coordinator. He/she may then recommend that you ask for a teacher conference to address the question of your mentee's needs.

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