



Mentoring Online Students

"Mentoring is a gift from the heart"

Payne, DeVol, Smith, 2009

Be available

Students may be working on online coursework outside of normal school hours. Ensure that students know you're available when they need you.

Build the relationship

Listen to the students and get to know them. Celebrate successes, and strategize with them to overcome barriers.

Set boundaries

Mentor as a teacher, not a peer. Although you're available, students should respect your time. Set those expectations up front.

Use technology, as well as face-to-face communication

Set a weekly (or twice weekly) meeting with students. But be sure and use technology to connect more often. Email or an educational social media platform, such as Edmodo or Schoology, will help you stay in touch with students without running yourself ragged.

If you need help, ask

The eResources team is here to help. If you or your students have problems with online coursework, email or call Brook Singletary at bsingletary@apsrc.net or 501-492-4300.

Reference

Johnston, R., Phillips, M., Western Governors University. *Best Practices in Mentoring Online Students*, presentation. October, 2012.