




Professional Learning

Teacher Support Specialists

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Purpose

The Teacher Support Specialists (TSS) Program is designed to provide site-based cognitive coaching and instructional support by trained, State-endorsed, mentors. Teacher Support Specialists assist student teachers, beginning teachers, teachers newly transferred to a school or grade level, teachers with professional development plans (PDPs), or teachers in need of additional support.

Facilitators

Teachers with a minimum of five years teaching experience who are identified as master teachers may be recommended by principals for participation in a 100 hour endorsement program to become a Teacher Support Specialist.

Locations

Every school is targeted for the program.

Time

Teacher Support Specialists support teachers through monthly group meetings, individual mentoring conferences, observing and providing feedback, modeling effective instructional and classroom management practices and by coordinating opportunities for new teachers to observe effective teachers.

Curricular Design

Group meetings and individual conferences include but are not limited to the following topics:

- providing mentoring support through conferencing and collaborating
- conducting peer observations
- providing instructional assistance
- modeling effective teaching practices
- reviewing school procedures and District policies
- reviewing instructional resources
- classroom management

Benefits

- engaging in exciting and meaningful professional learning opportunities
- enhancing increased teacher quality through reflection and collaboration
- facilitating higher teacher retention
- advocating for students and teachers

Requirements

- complete State Teacher Support Specialist Endorsement training and internship year
- design action plan for monthly activities
- document mentoring activities
- attend professional learning seminars designed for skill enhancement
- submit TSS Mentoring Report