



Online Mentoring for Beginning Special Education Teachers

“Our nation is less likely to serve children with disabilities well because of our failure to appropriately train, recruit and mentor special education teachers. This will not only undermine our efforts to increase the achievement of students with disabilities; it will frustrate our efforts to improve our schools and increase the academic achievement of all children.”

*U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, *A New Era: Revitalizing Special Education for Children and Their Families*, Washington, DC, 2002.

Program Description

eMSS Special Education was created to empower and develop the next generation of special educators providing content-focused mentoring through a national, online technology network. Through eMSS, new and veteran teachers and university special educators collaborate in an interactive community to facilitate the exchange of information, ideas and experiences to advance high-quality special education instruction for all students.

Background

Initiated in 2002 with five years of support from the National Science Foundation, eMSS was developed as an online mentoring program for beginning science teachers. To date, eMSS has worked with over 1000 beginning teachers and 450 mentor teachers in all 50 states. Given the successes achieved in the eMSS Science Program, as documented by program evaluations and participant surveys, the NTC, with initial funding from Nevada, Louisiana, and in part using funds from the US DOE, OSEP, has extended eMSS to

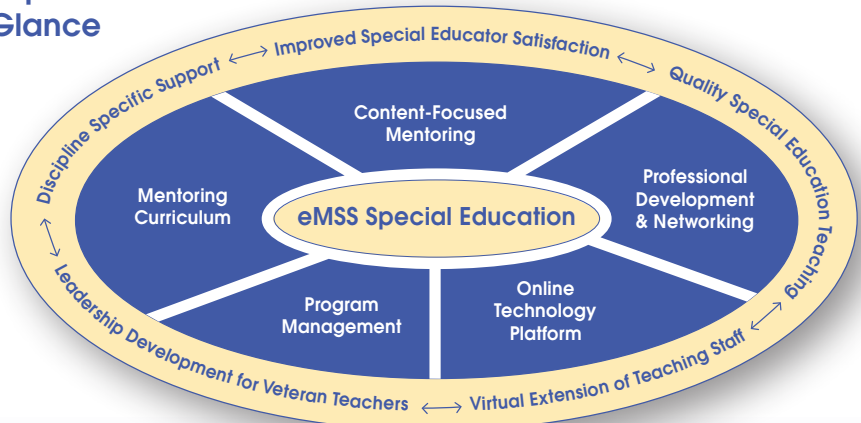
beginning special educators. In 2010, eMSS-Special Education will be available nationwide.

Program Features

eMSS supports and extends mentoring for beginning special educators, anytime, anywhere through flexible and accessible technology that is easy to learn and use. The eMSS network is designed to promote professional development through dialogue and offers:

- Special education-focused mentoring program inclusive of training, stipends and program administration
- Beginning special educators matched with a mentor who has experience teaching the same exceptionality and grade level
- Facilitated online curriculum that focuses on special education content and pedagogy that directly applies to the teacher’s classroom
- Nationwide, online network of special educators that facilitates the exchange of information, ideas and resources
- Leadership and professional development opportunities for special educators teachers

eMSS Special Education at a Glance



“Every new professional in special education should receive an intensive focused induction program under a mentor during the first year or so of special education practice. The mentor must be an accomplished special educator in the same or a similar role to the mentored individual who can provide expertise and support on a continuing basis throughout the induction.”**

Program Benefits

We are committed to our clients' success, and specifically dedicated to supporting the growth and development of special educators. Beyond those high-level benefits, independent research conducted by Horizon Research, Inc. has shown that eMSS has had significant impact on:

- Preparedness to teach challenging courses and curricula
- Ability to teach content
- Preparedness in basic teaching and management skills
- Teacher satisfaction

eMSS-Special Education Program Participants

- eMSS Special Education Mentees
 - Beginning (1–3 year) special educators
 - Employed by eMSS participating districts, organizations, and departments of education
 - Matched with a mentor with experience at the same exceptionality and grade level

- eMSS Special Education Mentors
 - Experienced special educators
 - Strong knowledge in working with students with disabilities
 - Evidence of exemplary teaching
 - Mentor beginning special educators
 - Interact with a community of special educators and content experts
 - Receive stipends
- eMSS Content Experts
 - Responsible for monitoring, leading, and promoting content-specific discussions on the eMSS learning environment

The Opportunity

If you are passionate about special education and would like to provide eMSS online mentoring to beginning special educators in your school district or organization, we would like to hear from you! Please contact us so we can discuss the opportunity further.

Registrations for the 2010–2011 school year are now being accepted. For more information on eMSS-Special Education, visit www.newteachercenter.org/emss.

Program Contacts

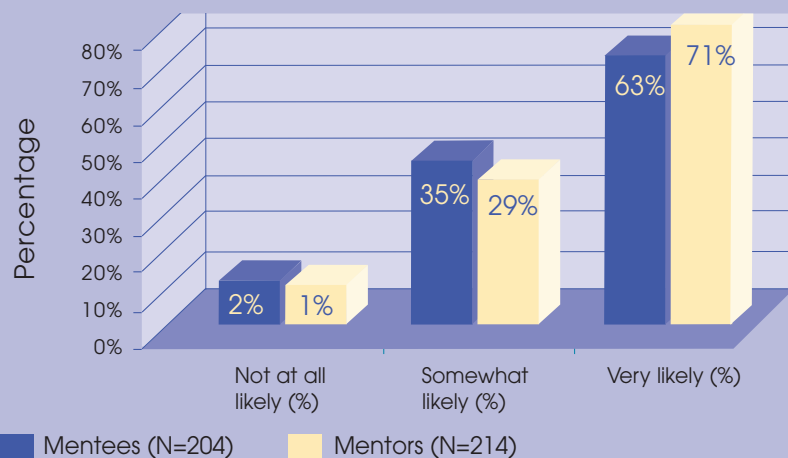
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Mentee and Mentor Ratings of the Likelihood that Participation in eMSS Inquiries and Mini-Inquiries Enhances New Teachers' Ability to Teach Science/Mathematics*



*Data from eMSS-Science and Math; eMSS-Special Education data is being collected from the pilot program.

**Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), *The Council for Exceptional Children Definition of a Well-Prepared Special Education Teacher*, 2004. p. 7.