

Questions to Ask Your Mentor

To maximize the benefits of the mentor-mentee relationship, come prepared to each collaborative meeting. Being prepared allows mentors and mentees to utilize time to engage in deeper, intentional collegial conversations. Here is a brief list of questions you might consider asking your mentor

Ask your mentor to tell a story from their career. Some questions to consider:

- How did you land your current role? Did you envision this is where you would be?
- Can you tell me about a time when you had a disagreement with a colleague or supervisor? How did you handle it?
- How did you learn to embrace failure?
- What's the most important leadership lesson you've learned and how is it valuable?

Identify a challenging situation and share it with the mentor. Ask your mentor to act as a sounding board. Some questions to consider:

- Have you dealt with a similar challenge? How did you address it?
- What resources or professional learning could help me address this challenge more effectively?
- When trying to gain buy-in from others, what strategies have worked for you?

Ask your mentor questions to support your career development. Some questions to consider:

- What advice can you offer on how to progress in my career in education?
- How do you successfully connect with influential educators who may not work in our district?

Ask a question that invites your mentor to contribute to your self-awareness. Some questions to consider:

- What do you see as my strengths and areas of growth? What should I focus on?
- How do you think others perceive me in our district/school?
- How could I have communicated my idea more clearly?

Identify a skill you currently want to develop, and ask your mentor for advice or resources. Some questions to consider:

- What new skills do I need to move ahead?
- What has had the greatest impact on your own development?
- How can I become better at managing people, even those who do not report to me?