

TCs: IDEAS FOR GETTING TO KNOW THE SUPPORT AT YOUR SCHOOL

Getting to know the varied professionals at your school who support both students and teachers is an ongoing process! Start by finding out what roles exist at your school and who serves them—ask your mentor, look at your school’s website, and visit the offices of the school. Make a plan to talk with colleagues about their roles at the school. You can go by their office, email them, or set up an appointment to talk.



Here are some ideas of who you may want to meet:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counselor | <input type="checkbox"/> Community resource specialist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Security specialist | <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social worker | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical therapist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School psychologist | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupational therapist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Principals and Assistant principals | <input type="checkbox"/> Activity coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Registrar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School nurse | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth services assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College and Career advisor | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health specialist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special education staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Health program assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bilingual education staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Others |

What to ask?

Below, you’ll find sample questions for getting a conversation started about what counselors, specialists, and other staff can do to help you and your students.

- Do you work with a specific group of students? How often or in what ways?
- Are students referred to you/your office? When, why, and how does this happen?
- What sort of supports do you provide to students? To teachers?
- How many students are part of your caseload?
- What challenges do you face in your role?
- In what ways do you work with classroom teachers?
- Are there other specialists or staff that you work closely with?
- Are there any special events (testing, scheduling, graduation etc.) that you are a part of?
- Do you serve other schools in addition to this one?
- What is the best way to communicate with you?
- What suggestions would you offer a new classroom teacher?
- Is there an area of expertise you offer that may be underutilized and would be helpful to a new teacher?

You can also ask about specific students you teach that this professional may be able to help you understand better.

Check out the “Connecting with Teacher Colleagues and Staff” resource on the mentorteachers.org site for additional ideas and information.

AVAILABLE SUPPORT AT _____ SCHOOL

Name and position	What I hope to learn/ask about	What I learned