

NATIONAL STUDENT ATTENDANCE,
ENGAGEMENT, AND SUCCESS CENTER



2018 National Convening

May 9-10, 2018
Baltimore, Maryland



NSAESC

National Student Attendance, Engagement, and Success Center

NATIONAL STUDENT ATTENDANCE, ENGAGEMENT, AND SUCCESS CENTER



Tapping into the Power of Peers

Darrin Person, Fresno Public Schools

Beshon Smith, Center for Supportive Schools

Dudney Sylla, MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership

Peer Leaders: Kylik Kimbrough, 11th Grader, Edmondson-Westside High School

Taylor Shaw, 11th Grader, Edmondson-Westside High School



NSAESC

National Student Attendance, Engagement, and Success Center

Session Objectives

- Feel inspired to include peers as part of your Success Mentors and other student support strategies
- Understand key considerations and best practices for designing an effective school-based peer mentoring program
- Know where you can find resources and support to start tapping into the power of peer mentors in your own schools



Agenda

- Introductions & icebreaker
- Overview of peer mentoring programs
- What does peer mentoring look like in practice?
 - Fresno Public Schools
 - Peer Group Connection
- Next steps & resources



About Dudney



Dudney Sylla

Program Manager

**MENTOR: The National
Mentoring Partnership**



MentorNational



/MentorNational



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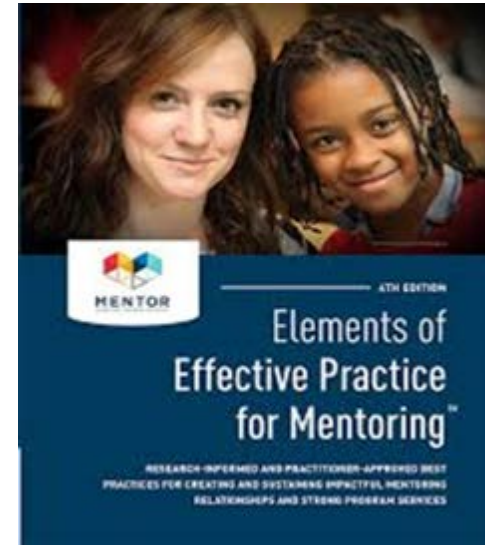


Who are we?



MENTOR
THE NATIONAL MENTORING PARTNERSHIP

- Unifying champion for expanding quality youth mentoring relationships in the US for more than 25 years.
- Develops and delivers evidence-based standards, innovative research and essential tools for youth-serving programs, including the [Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™](#)
- Supports a network of 26 Mentoring Partnerships and 50+ Technical Assistance Providers who support mentoring programs locally.
- Manages the [National Mentoring Resource Center](#), which provides no-cost training and technical assistance to mentoring programs nationwide.



NATIONAL
MENTORING
RESOURCE CENTER
A Program of **OJJDP**



Who I am

- Dr. Beshon Smith, Ph.D., MPA
- Executive Director, DC & MD
- Provide strategic vision and leadership for growth
- Partnered with school districts in New York City, Washington D.C., and Maryland



Who are we?

Center for Supportive Schools (CSS)

- CSS helps schools become places students want to be. We leverage the resources already in schools to create **safer and more supportive, engaging, and inspiring learning communities.**
- National organization currently partnering with schools in NYC, PA, MD, DC, NC
- There are currently 230 schools operating CSS programs reaching approximately 50,000 students per year.
- We serve urban, suburban, and rural communities and work in public (including charter), private, and independent schools.



Fresno Unified Mentoring Office



- Darrin Person, MSW
- Manager, Mentor Office
- Oversee 50 + Mentoring Programs
- Over 4,000 students receiving services



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER



Who are you?

- District Administrator
- School Administrator
- Principal or Assistant Principal
- School Program Coordinator
- School Social Work
- Other?



How involved is your school with peer mentoring?

- We've already launched a peer mentoring program.
- We're planning to launch a peer mentoring program.
- We're considering a peer mentoring model at our school.
- We don't know much about peer mentoring at all.



Ice-Breaker

Peer Leaders:

Kylik Kimbrough
& Taylor Shaw

11th Grade

Edmondson-
Westside High
School



Overview of Peer Mentoring

- Making sure that peer mentors receive substantial training on how to implement the program and how to manage their behaviors to avoid negative role modeling.
- Offering additional training on topics related to relationship management, such as the mentor's role, active listening, negotiation strategies, and conflict resolution.
- Providing strong adult support in planning and supervising activities.
- Discussing and even practicing closure so that all participants are prepared for the eventual dissolution of the relationship.

Handbook on Youth Mentoring, 2014



What is Peer Group Connection (PGC)?

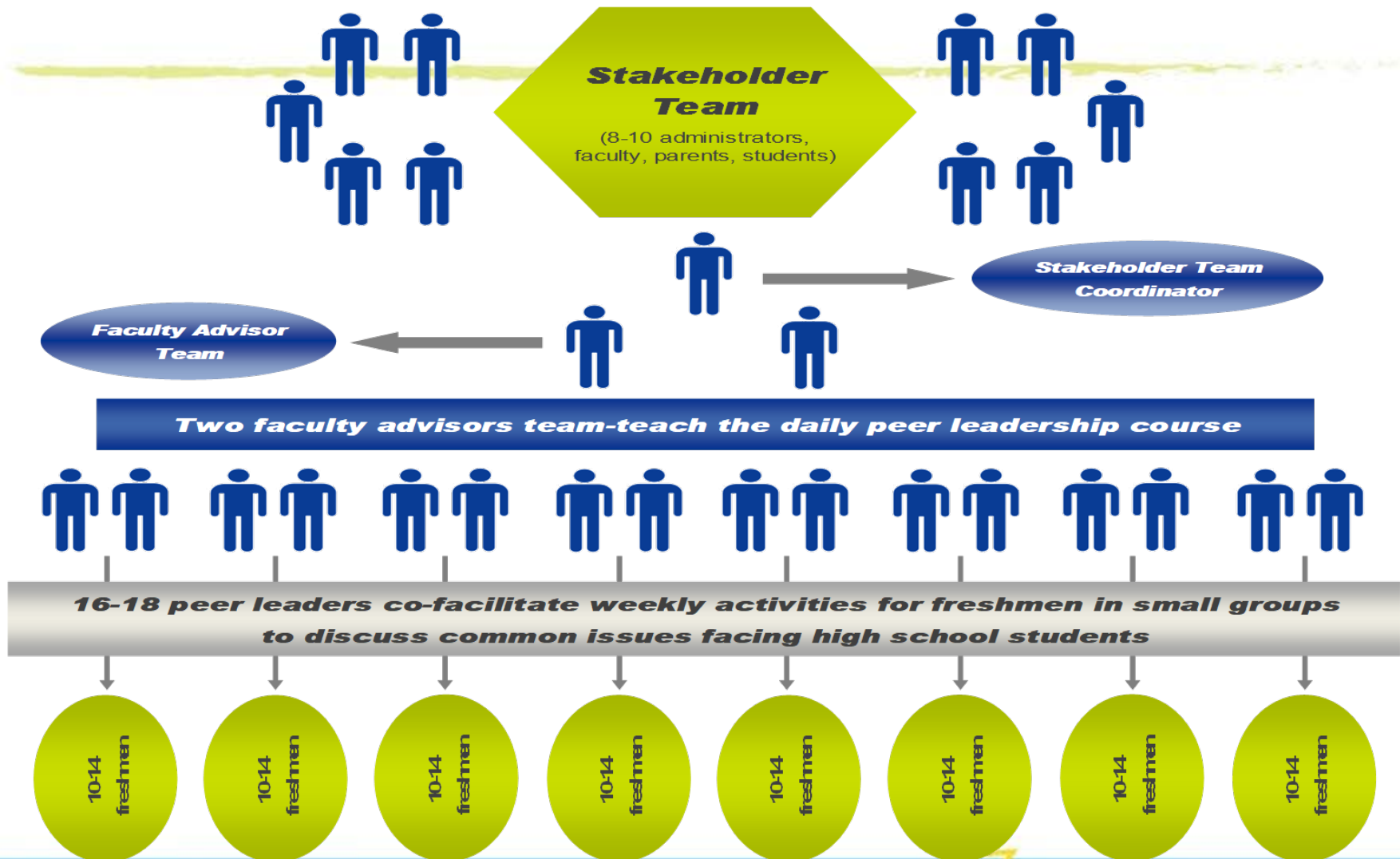
A peer-to-peer group mentoring model that trains and mobilizes older/more experienced students to help ease the transition into school for incoming students and improve school culture and climate.

- **PGC for high schools:** 11th and 12th graders support 9th graders
- **PGC for middle schools:** 8th graders support 6th graders

Each of these programs uses a distinct and developmentally appropriate curriculum.



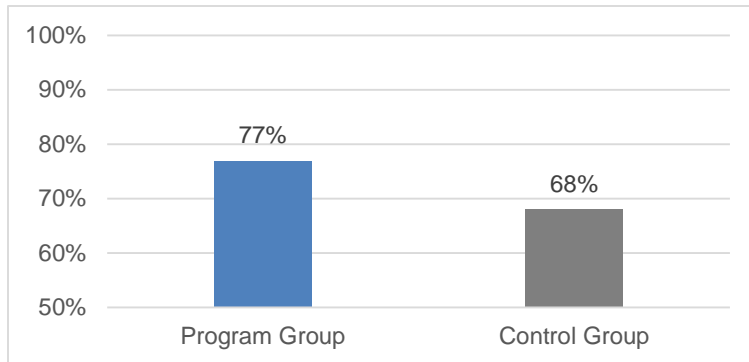
Peer Group Connection Program Structure



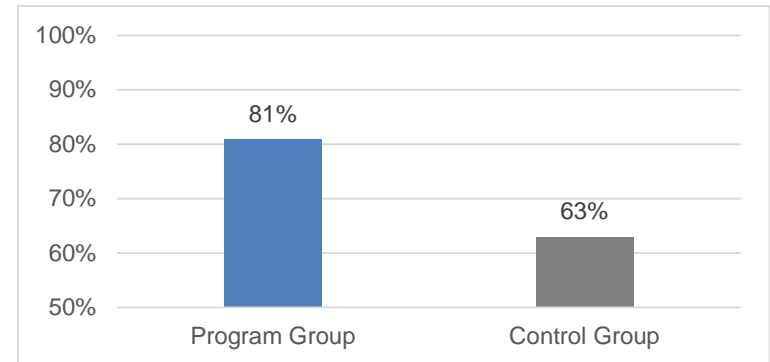
Results

% of 9th grade students who graduated from high school

All Students

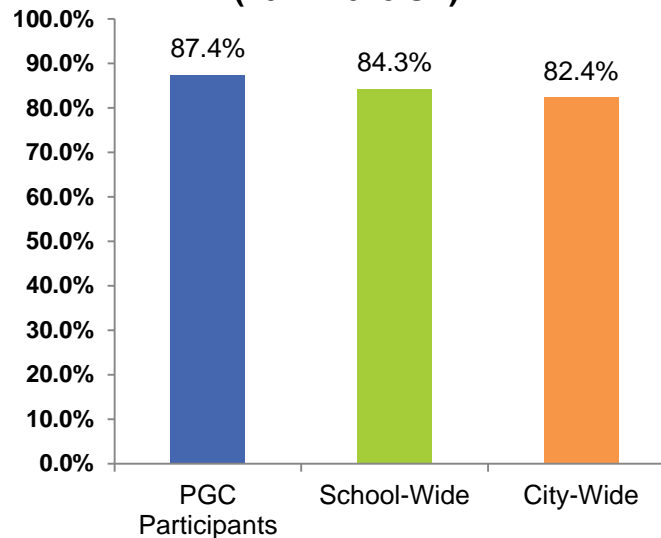


Male Students

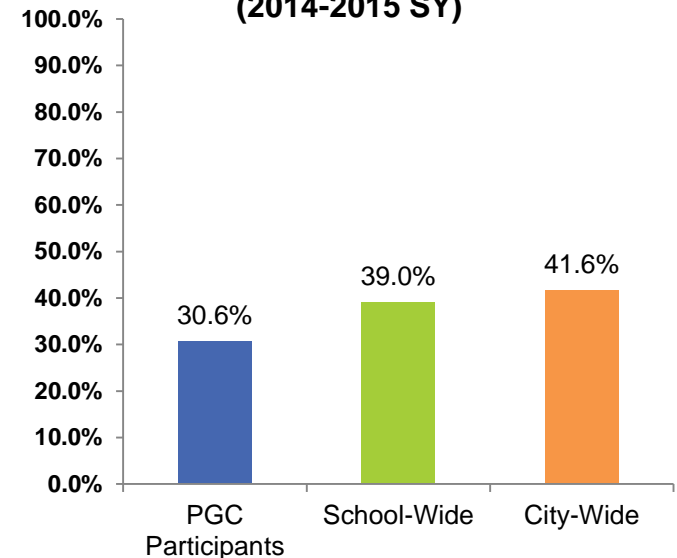


Comparison of 9th grade attendance and chronic absence rates

Attendance Rates (2014-2015 SY)



Chronic Absentee Rates (2014-2015 SY)



Other Results

- Higher grades
- Higher on-time promotion rates
- Better attendance
- Fewer discipline referrals
- Fewer instances of fighting and suspension
- Improved communication with peers and others

CENTER FOR SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS Peer Mentoring



Fresno Unified-Peer Mentoring

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□ Program Features

- ▣ Weekly Meetings (2 hours)
- ▣ Mentor/Mentee Training
- ▣ High-Middle school match
- ▣ Peer Mentoring Curriculum
- ▣ Homework Assistance
- ▣ Team Building Retreat
- ▣ College Tours
- ▣ Service Learning Projects



Best Practices -Peer Mentoring

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350 High
School
Students



350 Middle
School
Students

- ☐ School site leads – (the right people)
- ☐ Administration support
- ☐ Mentor selection
- ☐ Consistent meetings with staff
- ☐ Trainings Mentors/Mentees
- ☐ Mentee incentives

Fresno Unified – Peer Mentoring

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Resources

- The [Peer Mentoring Handbook](#) provides recommended practices for teens and young adults to mentor younger students or children.
- This webinar, entitled [Peer Mentoring: A Discussion with Experienced Practitioners](#), engages seasoned peer mentoring practitioners in a conversation about best practices for this model.
- [Peer Mentoring: An Effective Vehicle for Promoting Healthy Behaviors](#) (2014, Chronicle of Evidence-Based Mentoring)
- [Building Effective Peer Mentoring Programs in Schools: An Introductory Guide](#) (2008, MRC)
- [The ABC of Peer Mentoring – What Secondary Students Have to Say About Cross-Age Peer Mentoring](#) (2015, Chronicle of Evidence-Based Mentoring)



What Should I Do Next?

- Connect:
 - Check out the OJJDP [National Mentoring Resource Center](#) to access a wealth of free mentoring resources, and for the opportunity to request no-cost technical assistance for your program.
 - Connect with the [MENTOR affiliate](#) in your state or region.
 - Reach out to dhagan@mentoring.org or (617) 303 1804 to request no-cost TA.



Q&A



Organizations that we work with:

Everyone Graduates Center: <http://new.every1graduates.org>

Attendance Works: <http://www.attendanceworks.org>

MENTOR: <http://www.mentoring.org>

My Brother's Keeper Alliance: <https://www.mbkalliance.org>

Jobs for the Future: <http://jff.org>

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