

# Relationship-Centered Schools

Creating and Activating Webs of Support So All Students Can Thrive

Relationships matter, now more than ever, and especially within schools. In fact, a recent survey of 900+ educators by Remake Learning, KnowledgeWorks and the PA Department of Education found that “surrounding young people with supportive relationships” was at the top of the list as far as what’s needed now to chart a path forward for learning in a post-pandemic future.

Intentional student-adult relationships nurture understanding and ignite self-discovery, inspiring young people to pursue their passions and thrive in school. But these relationships sometimes aren’t evenly distributed within the education system, helping some students succeed while unintentionally leaving others behind.

Our Relationship-Centered Schools process works with school faculty and staff to create and activate relationship-rich environments in schools, reaching young people where they are. It prioritizes supportive relationships so we can empower all students to explore a future full of possibilities.

## The Process

### Landscape Analysis

Identifies the web of relationships that exists for students within in a district/school. We’ll review school climate surveys, capture youth voice through focus groups, surveys and interviews, review existing school and afterschool programming and disseminate relationship-mapping tools to help teachers/school administrators understand all the touchpoints a student has with faculty and staff.

### Training/Staff Development

Includes training, monitoring and ongoing professional development opportunities for school staff, adult volunteers and participating students so that the school’s mentoring commitment is effective and sustainable in the long-term.

### Family/Community Engagement

By orienting families, caregivers and the entire school community to our relationship-centered schools work and what it means for our students, we can engage them and convert them into active participants in the process.

### Design Lab Series

Strategic meetings to articulate needs, acknowledge work already being done, rank priorities and develop a relationships-first action plan that is customized to their specific school/district.

### Questions?

Email Kristan Allen at [kallen@mentoringpittsburgh.org](mailto:kallen@mentoringpittsburgh.org).



### What Do Relationship-Centered Schools Look Like In Our Community?



**West Greene Peer Mentoring**  
Builds affirming relationships between younger teens and older teens to facilitate a positive school environment and encourage mindful decisions both at school and in the community.



**Duquesne Princess Association**  
Assists female students in grades 1-3 in developing self-esteem, social skills and proper etiquette. Students also complete a yearly community service project.



**Urban Academy Mentoring**  
Seeks to increase attendance rates, improve academic scores and reduce behavior infractions. Students meet with teachers.