



## Program Description

The New York State Mentoring Program utilizes a one-to-one, school-based mentoring approach. The program leverages the resources of communities, schools and businesses to match youth with screened and trained volunteer mentors. Dedicated adults guide youth in building positive relationships, developing self-esteem, and making positive life choices.

The New York State Mentoring Program was born from the remarkable vision of The Honorable Matilda Raffa Cuomo, who initially chaired the committee that established the nation’s first school-based, one-to-one mentoring program, which operated from 1987 until 1995.

In 2015, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo reaffirmed the state’s commitment to children and mentoring by creating the New York State Mentoring Program, chaired pro bono by Mrs. Cuomo. The program will work with private sector and nonprofit partners to identify mentors and businesses paired with school dependent children on the verge of success. The program initially targets students in 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in the program.

The New York State Mentoring Program is managed by directors supported by a team of regional coordinators strategically positioned across the state. In conjunction with the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC’s) in each region, standing working groups have been established to identify and encourage the participation of community partners, businesses and schools.



### **Benefits to Schools**

Community engagement; supportive adults to further the mission and values of school, families  
Industry link between school and corporations (advertising, tech, health care, agribusiness, etc.)

### **Benefits to Students**

- 1:1 personal support/advising
- Build relationships with positive role model; companionship; trust
- Academic support
- Build self-esteem
- Improved communication skills
- Reduce disciplinary interventions

### **Benefits to Companies**

- Corporate responsibility
- Social responsibility
- Increased employee engagement
- Long-term economic benefits to communities where companies are located
- Workforce development in communities where companies are located

