

We very much appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Teen Mentoring Pilot project. The sharing that occurred during meetings was very helpful and we certainly felt supported throughout the process. (Steering Committee Member Quote)

Noteworthy:

100% of all Steering Committee members agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: “The information on teen mentoring proved to be useful for starting and/or enhancing a program.”

Steering Committee Members agreed that the objectives for the pilot were achieved.

Background

JUNE 2015

The Teen Mentoring Toolkit is a no-cost online resource that provides schools and community agencies with the opportunity to build or enhance quality mentoring programs. Teen Mentoring engages junior and high school aged youth as mentors to younger students in creating a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe community through positive mentoring relationships.

Evaluation Summary

Designed in collaboration between the Society for Safe & Caring Schools & Communities and the Alberta Mentoring Partnership, the Toolkit identifies research-informed and evidence-based practices, strategies and tools for planning, implementing and evaluating a quality teen mentoring program.



AndersonDraper Consulting was contracted by Safe and Caring Schools & Communities to undertake the evaluation for the pilot of the Toolkit, between November 2014 and May 2015. A Steering Committee was struck to oversee the project, comprised of government and community based organizations and 5 participating pilot school sites. As part of the evaluation, Steering Committee members participated in interviews, mentors and mentees completed surveys and there was on-going reflection. The pilot included 2 face-to-face Collaboration days, several meetings, and sites using the Toolkit to implement a teen mentoring program.

Focus

- Identify areas for improvement in the content and delivery of the Toolkit
- Offer opportunities to share learnings and experience around teen mentoring
- Document areas where teen mentoring has made a positive impact, challenges and lessons learned

“Talking to someone who has piloted a project is useful for getting concrete ideas, what it looks like for them. Seeing “on the ground” how it works and how it may apply to you, or not. Having a mentor you can access to get ideas from and talk about bumps along the road. Offer opportunities to come together to plan, talk about programs.” (Steering Committee Member Quote)

Successes:

Pilot sites: a small number of key people working together, each school made progress.

The Toolkit itself: feedback generated to improve it, Alberta Education recognizes this resource will serve to support implementation and/or improvement of in-school mentoring across Alberta.

Process: project was run well, the Project Manager was key, essential to have a “champion” to guide the process; a good partnership be-

tween Safe and Caring and AMP working towards the same goal.

Matches: actually using the tools and information in the Toolkit to create a program.

The sample forms are excellent... they give you the ability to add what your school/program may need.” (Steering Committee Member Quote)

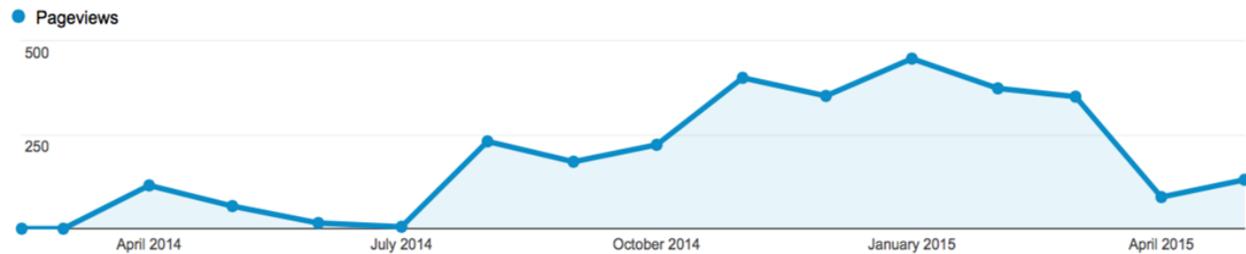
Challenge:

Timelines: seemed stretched, like we were starting from behind, schools have been working under challenging circumstances to get this done.

“We got off to a late start and this made some of the work with establishing pilot sites a bit more problematic, although issues may have still happened with staff turnover. All 5 pilots who signed on have stayed on to some extent and that’s significant.” (Steering Committee Member Quote)

Teen Mentoring Toolkit Evaluation Summary 2015

Pageviews: There were close to 3,000 pageviews by Steering Committee members and pilot sites during the time period, with over 1,500 of them “unique” (eliminating multiple views of the same page in the same browsing session). On average, visitors to the site spent 2.5 minutes per page. This type of information can help to answer “what has the uptake of the Toolkit been since becoming live on June 1st, 2015?” as part of future evaluations.



Mentor Feedback

As part of participation in the Teen Mentoring Toolkit Pilot, mentors were asked to complete a survey at the end of the program. A total of 60 mentors across 3 schools completed a survey in May 2015. This program is the first opportunity for most respondents (n=45) to serve in the role of mentor, however 15 of 60 respondents reported having past mentoring experience.

Through participation in the teen mentoring program, mentors responded having increased the following skills:

	Not at all	Somewhat	Yes
Leadership	1 (2%)	20 (34%)	37 (64%)
Communication	3 (5%)	23 (40%)	32 (55%)
Team building	7 (12%)	25 (43%)	26 (45%)
Problem solving	6 (10%)	24 (41%)	28 (48%)
Critical thinking	6 (10%)	28 (50%)	22 (39%)

"I have learned how to meet others easier & have learned how to work better with children and other kids with special needs."

"I feel accomplished and sense of usefulness in my school and community."

Overall, feedback from mentors was positive and they gained skills through their participation. However, a few felt participating in a teen mentoring program should be optional and not a course requirement.

Mentee Experiences

One of the teen mentoring pilot programs focused on transition from a local elementary school to a junior high. Mentees reported feeling more confident about starting junior high as a result of their participation. Future research in September would serve to validate if students who participated in the teen mentoring program as mentees had different experiences starting junior high than those who did not.

Acknowledgements: The Steering Committee consists of representatives from Safe and Caring Schools & Communities, Alberta Mentoring Partnership, Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Education, Alberta Centre for Child Family & Community Research, The Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area and the Alberta Teachers Association. The pilot schools are also members of the Steering Committee and include: Bassano, John D. Bracco, M.E. LaZerte, Jasper Place and Bellerose Composite High School. After the second face to face Collaboration Day, Steering Committee members reported being “all fired up” to promote the Teen Mentoring Toolkit.

Accessing the Toolkit

Alberta Mentoring Partnership (AMP): www.albertamentors.ca/teen-mentoring

Safe and Caring Schools & Communities (SACS): www.resources.safeandcaring.ca/resource-students