

51 NSW SCHOOLS GET MENTORS TO HELP BEGINNER TEACHERS MAKE THE RIGHT START

The NSW Minister for Education and Training, John Watkins, today announced that beginning teachers at 51 government schools will get help from experienced mentor-teachers from the start of next year.

Mr Watkins said mentors would help beginner teachers build classroom authority by providing professional advice, practical help and a kind word.

The scheme, which will operate at schools with a high proportion of new teachers, will help beginning teachers start their careers on the right foot.

Mr Watkins also announced that from early next year both primary and high school principals in isolated NSW locations will get support from mentor-principals.

The Teacher Mentor Program will cost \$2.4 million this financial year. It is part of a \$425 million NSW Government project over four years to improve teacher quality, supply and professional development.

“Beginning teachers have chosen to do a vital job - to educate the next generation of Australians,” Mr Watkins said.

“They deserve all the support we can give them,” he said.

“Beginning teachers will not be alone in their new schools, much needed support will be close at hand.”

As well as beginner teachers, teachers who are returning to the workforce and overseas-trained teachers also will be helped by mentor-teachers.

Teacher mentors will be assigned to the same school as the beginning teachers in their charge.

According to experienced mentors, beginning teachers ask about:

- How they make sure every student is learning, regardless of how actively students participate in lessons.
- Managing gifted and talented students, students from non-English-speaking backgrounds and children with disabilities. .
- Planning lessons effectively so students’ attention is maintained for the whole lesson.

- Programming students' learning for a whole year.
- Managing students who are difficult.

Mentor teachers will be appointed to areas including **Liverpool, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Mt Druitt, Parramatta, Albury, Dubbo, Deniliquin, Moree and Broken Hill.**

Mentors' positions were advertised last week, with applications closing in late November. A very strict selection procedure will be used.

Mr Watkins said Mentor Teachers would be experienced teachers who could instil confidence, help build classroom skills, and give feedback and praise.

"They also will be chosen for the way they motivate their own students and get the best out of them," he said.

Mr Watkins said schools were busy places and teachers did all they could to support new colleagues.

"However, we can still do more to help beginning teachers overcome their first teaching hurdles," he said.

The Secondary Principals Mentoring Pilot will assist schools in **Brewarrina, Ivanhoe, Walgett, Mungindi, Wilcannia, Menindee, Hillston and Bowraville.**

The Primary Principal Mentoring Pilot will assist schools in the **Moree district**, including Croppa Creek, Carinda, Pilliga, Tullooona and Rowena.

Noel Beddoe, principal of Warrawong High School, in Wollongong, will give three days of intensive support and advice to high school principals on issues including financial management, child protection and occupational health and safety.

Murray Dennis, a retired Tamworth principal, will provide two days support to primary principals.

A list of NSW schools that will get a teacher-mentor is attached.

Media inquiries: Paul Childs on 0411 263 661.

NSW SCHOOLS GETTING MENTOR TEACHERS

Balranald Central
Barnier Public
Batlow Technology
Bidwill Public
Blacktown Boys High
Bonnyrigg Heights
Bourke High
Brewarrina Central
Busby West Public
Canley Heights Public
Chifley College Bidwill
Chifley College Dunheved
Chifley College Mt Druitt
Cobar High
Colyton High
Coonamble Public
Coonamble High
Courallie High
Crawford Public
Deniliquin High
Dubbo College Delroy
Dubbo College South
Erskine Park High
Finley High
Granville Boys High

Granville South High
Griffith High
Lethbridge Park Public
Lightning Ridge Central
Liverpool Boys High
Lurnea Public
Macquarie Boys High
Moree High
Narrabri High
Noumea Public
Pendle Hill High
Plumpton High
Prestons Public
Punchbowl Boys High
Quakers Hill High
Rooty Hill High
Rosemeadow Public
Sadleir Public
Sarah Redfern High
Smithfield Public
Thomas Reddall High
Tregear Public
Walgett High
Wellington High
Wilcannia Central
Willyama High