



## What Is a Mentor?

- A mentor is a positive role model who acts as a sounding board, a guide, a confidant and a friend to another person.
- Mentoring is really about *connecting*. You don't have to have all the answers to your mentee's problems and shouldn't lecture on all the things he/she should be doing. You simply need to be a CONSISTENT presence - someone your student can count on to show up and, no matter what, provide unconditional support.
- It is not an easy job, but most things in life that are meaningful and make a true impact are not. One guarantee: As a member of Pearland ISD's RISE Mentoring, you will have plenty of support and tools to help you begin and maintain a relationship with the young person with whom you are matched.

***The primary mission of RISE Mentoring is that caring, committed adults in Pearland will RISE up and accept the greatest commandment of all...to love one another by showing up and being present in the life of a young person.***

**As a mentor you will work to:**

**Reach** – To gain the trust of any young person you have to be willing to know his/her world. Likes and dislikes. What music does he/she listen to? What television shows does he/she watch? You have to reach before you can teach. Truth be known, you might spend all of this year right here working to reach your student. That's okay!

**Inspire** – As mentors, you have to inspire the kids by role modeling to them things they would desire for themselves. Even when they seem to be pulling away, you inspire by continuing to show up. They will soon see that your care for them is unconditional and this is where the inspiration comes from. We want them to hunger for more than they have now and encourage them to go after their dreams with full abandon.

**Support** – Be committed to the cause. Be present. Show up. Once they begin to trust you, they might start opening up more, sharing more, and taking more risks and they will need support as they do so.

**Empower** – Help kids see more, want more and be more than they ever thought was possible. Your time with them should empower them to advocate for themselves and they should feel your support even when you aren't together because of the firm foundation you have created.