

# Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™, Fourth Edition

## One-Page Summary



**MENTOR**  
THE NATIONAL MENTORING PARTNERSHIP

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR) is proud to announce the release of the [Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™](#), Fourth Edition (*Elements*). The *Elements* is MENTOR's cornerstone publication: a collection of research-informed practices for creating and sustaining quality youth mentoring programs.

The *Elements* are widely accepted as the national & global standards for quality youth mentoring programs and consequently strong, lasting mentoring relationships. Research has shown that mentoring is most impactful when steps are taken to ensure quality.

Since the release of the First Edition in 1991 by MENTOR and the United Way, each subsequent edition has improved upon the growing cache of research around youth mentoring. The Fourth Edition is the most comprehensive attempt to date to build these programmatic standards that are grounded in research and evidence-based practices. The Steering Committee reviewed over 400 journal articles and research reports and consulted over 200 practitioners and organizations.

The *Elements* includes six core **Standards** of practice which are intended to be applicable across almost every type of youth mentoring:

1. Recruitment
2. Screening
3. Training
4. Matching and Initiating
5. Monitoring and Support
6. Closure

Each Standard includes **Benchmarks** (ensure safety and effectiveness of mentoring relationships) and **Enhancements** (may be promising, innovative, useful for programs) related to measuring a program's adherence to the Standard. The *Elements* also includes a Program Planning and Management section offering recommendations for designing and strengthening youth mentoring services and providing high-quality oversight and leadership.

Mentoring programs are encouraged to take advantage of the [National Mentoring Resource Center](#) for no-cost training, technical assistance, and resources available to support programs in more fully incorporating the *Elements'* evidence-based practices to improve the quality and effectiveness of youth mentoring relationships. These resources are provided by MENTOR and its network of affiliate *Mentoring Partnerships* and supported by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

*MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership* has been leading the movement to close the mentoring gap for America's young people over the past 25 years. Our mission is the fuel the quality and quantity of youth mentoring relationships through advocacy; development and delivery of standards and research; and expanding awareness through our national network of Mentoring Partnerships.