

A Mentee's Journey... hits them with daunting obstacles. Grand Area Mentoring identifies children in elementary school who struggle with behavior issues, have experienced trauma, are working to overcome culture and language barriers, suffer from depression, have been bullied, are falling behind academically, grieve for a lost loved one, or lack positive social connections.

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Teachers and counselors recommend students for mentoring.



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2 Training, Buy-In, Matching

Staff train mentees and families in program practices and expectations. Parents agree to support their child's participation. Youth involvement is strictly voluntary. Children agree to:

- Sustain a mentoring relationship for at least one year
- Meet weekly
- Work with their mentor to better their circumstances

After submitting an application, being trained, sitting for two interviews, passing a background check, and providing excellent references, mentors are matched with youth who seek guidance.

Supervision & Relationship 3

Grand Area Mentoring introduces, supports, and advises matches as they meet long-term.



- ✓ Matches average 51 months, a record & more than 700% better than those in a national study.

Mentoring modalities: Participants tailor their activities to meet the youth's unique needs. They strike a balance of relationship building and constructive guidance. Mentors choose from a menu of modalities, such as:

- Sports and PE practice
- Academic and social skills instruction
- Problem solving
- Manners and behavior coaching
- Attendance incentive plans
- Stress reduction/mindfulness
- Career discussions & job search
- Expanding horizons with new experiences

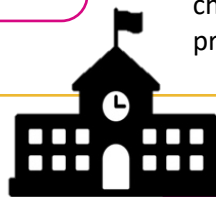
Reliable Positive Regard

For youth, the rewards of healthy interactions with a consistent role model can't be overstated. *Children need the support of caring individuals in order to develop properly.* Reliable positive regard helps equip students with the belief that they can affect personal change, that they are worthy and capable of living up to high standards.

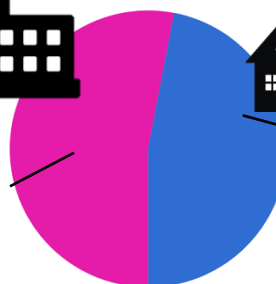
- In a May 2023 survey, **100%** of parents report that their children are happier since being matched with a mentor.
- Happier, resilient children are more likely to make better choices, raise healthy families of their own, and be productive members of society.

2023 Annual Report

During the 2022/2023 school year Grand Area Mentoring reached its goal of serving 75 youth. This may be the only hybrid school-based to community-based program in the country.



53% of matches are school-based.



47% of matches are community-based; mentees in grade 6+ meet one-on-one with their mentors at approved locations throughout Moab.

Students & Outcomes

- 75 youth served in 2022/2023
- 60% male, 40% female
- 93% qualify for free/reduced lunch
- 41% minority (Native American, Hispanic, or other)



Prosocial Behavior

- **85%** of mentored youth got in less trouble at school than the previous year vs. the goal of 40%*

Attendance

- **64%** missed less school vs. the goal of 35%*

Academic Performance

- **58%** improved their GPA vs. the goal of 35%*

Sustained Relationships

Lasting matches indicate program & relationship quality.

- Of relationships that closed in 2022/2023, **73%** lasted longer than 1 year vs. the goal of 55%*

Prosocial Connection

- **98%** of mentees feel appreciated for who they are & good about themselves when with their mentor.

**Objectives established by the Department of Education and experts in the field of youth mentoring.*

Mentee Perspectives

“Mentoring feels great, it feels like I always have a person to talk to. He’s basically like a father to me. He gives me lessons in life. He tells me what I have to work on in basketball, and we usually just get along. I always feel hyped to go.” –Sixth grader

“We talk about life, growing up, career choices. Sometimes she pushes me out of my comfort zone, but that’s needed. She encourages me to talk to people. With her insights and stories she tells me, I learn how to talk to other people.” –Ninth grader

Teacher Surveys

Few have more opportunities than teachers to witness student outcomes.

- **100%** of teachers agree that mentoring supports vulnerable youth who exhibit antisocial behavior, have few friendships, demonstrate low commitment to school, earn poor grades, and/or live in a troubled home.
- **100%** of teachers agree that *most mentored youth demonstrate better social skills.*

“I have seen a major difference in my students’ attendance, academics, and overall social and emotional well-being due to mentoring.” –GCSD faculty member

“Mentors are consistently successful in bringing out the best in kids.” –GCSD faculty member

Mentor Observations

- **90%** of mentors agree that their mentees have demonstrated *improved social skills.*
- **97%** of mentors agree that their relationship has deepened, gotten closer, or remained strong.

“My mentee began to self-advocate. She was hesitant at first but became more secure when her reasonable requests became reality. This resulted in a new level of closeness between us that recognized her increasing maturity and wish for greater control over her own life.”

Program & Support

Overall, mentors rate the value of their volunteer time as 3.8 out of 4 stars.



- **100%** of teachers agree that program staff are knowledgeable and easy to reach.
- **92%** of teachers agree that Grand Area Mentoring offers high quality support to its volunteer corps.
- **97%** of mentors agree that program staff was there for them if they needed ideas, help, or encouragement.

“Grand Area Mentoring is a one-of-a-kind program that makes a real, lasting difference in the lives of Grand County students. Well done!” –GCSD faculty member

Parent Feedback

Parents rate the quality of their child’s mentor as 3.9 out of 4 stars.

3.9★
average rating



Parents see the difference:

- **88%** of parents agree that since being matched with a mentor, their child *gets along better with others.*
- **75%** agree that their child *likes school more now.*

“Our mentors have all become members of our family and have continued to be in their life.” –Parent

“My son’s mentor is wonderful. He’s a great role model.”

2023/2024 Goals

The program will host a record number of community-based matches. A growing cohort of adolescent mentees is proof that teens seek opportunities to engage with the world and with their mentors. Therefore, a chief goal for the coming year is to provide additional support to community-based matches by way of special events, business sponsorships, and unique experiences.