

Mentorship Program FAQ

When will the program begin?

We launched the pilot of our program on September 27, 2021. We are currently recruiting for mentors for the 22-23 school year.

Who are your current partners?

Current participants range from entrepreneurial startups to Fortune 500 companies. With 15,000 students, we seek a wide variety of partners and expertise. Founders include FedEx, Snap Inc., Lionsgate Television, Perkins Coie LLP, Chartmetric, Treedom Inc. and Pacific Charter School Development.

What is the time commitment?

One school year, running from August to May. Mentors commit 3 hours/month - one hour of direct engagement with students via video; two hours of coaching/feedback on prompts and program coursework through a virtual platform.

What does a mentor in the Green Dot Mentorship program do?

Mentor Role:

- Showing up is 90% of the role
- Model healthy, trusting relationships – clear communication and good boundaries
- Acknowledge mentee strengths, talents, and gifts
- Support goal setting and achieving desired outcomes

Qualifications:

- Pass background check
- Attend Mentor Orientation and quarterly Equity Trainings
- Adhere to all program policies and procedures

How do I sign up to be a mentor?

Complete the [Mentorship Interest Form](#).

What happens next?

New mentors will receive a welcome packet that includes dates for training, the program calendar, mentor expectations/commitments, and directions for background checks.

How many students will I be mentoring?

Mentors will support up to 2 students and may collaborate in small group settings with other mentors.

What is the age of the students?

Mentees are 10th & 11th graders (age 15-17). As the program continues to grow, we will add Seniors as mentees. As the program grows, we will include 12th graders as mentees.

What is the demographic of students that I will be working with?

99% of Green Dot Public Schools students identify as students of color. Almost all are students from low-income households.

What outcomes can I expect for myself?

Mentors will build meaningful relationships with our students that will begin during their mentorship commitment and hopefully last a lifetime. In addition, mentors will develop their leadership skills and increase their understanding of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Mentors will gain an understanding of the communities Green Dot serves, empowering them to act as advocates and agents of change.

What does the mentorship student curriculum consist of?

The mentorship student curriculum is intentionally designed to help students build the knowledge, skills, and social capital necessary to succeed in their current high school endeavors and future careers. Lessons are structured around our four program pillars - **Relationship Building, Workforce Development, Networking, and Community Engagement.**

When will I meet with my mentee?

Mentors and mentees connect weekly via online communication on our virtual platform. Once a month, mentors and mentees will meet via video conference, during the school day at the same scheduled time each month.

Will the program be monitored for safety and quality?

Yes. The program is hosted on a virtual platform with embedded safety provisions to protect both mentors and mentees. School and program leaders are present during sessions to provide support.

Are there any other structural elements that I should be aware of?

The program follows the school calendar including breaks. We have built in flexibility to allow for the demands of corporate life.

What does it cost to participate?

Green Dot's philanthropic partners are currently contributing \$800 per student, reducing the cost of corporate participation to \$1,000 per employee mentor, plus \$75 for each background check. Most corporate partners cover some or all the costs of the program.

I don't feel I have the expertise to be a mentor - what skills should I have?

The greatest attribute for a mentor is the ability to share their personal experience – successes and failures, rethinking direction, interaction with others in the workplace, navigating the hiring process, learning about a profession, and sharing what might be done differently or better. Students will move from seeing life as a straight line with a clearly defined goal, to seeing it as a journey with twists and turns, and inevitable roadblocks. You have what it takes already. Our professional Green Dot teams will support you at every step of the process.