

Collegial relationships

Your relationships with other educators and administrators are also important to your success the first year. It's well worth the effort to meet and get to know the other adults at your school.

- Introduce yourself to colleagues. Other educators can help you greatly in your first weeks. Get acquainted not only with other teachers, counselors and media specialists, but also education support professionals such as secretaries, education assistants, custodians and food service and health workers.
- Ask colleagues for their advice and insights. They have learned from their own experiences and have wisdom to share with you.
- Find a mentor. If you're not assigned a mentor or your assigned mentor isn't a good match, seek out an informal mentor or ask your administrator to help you find one.
- Be a good team player. Make sure you share and collaborate. Plan ahead so you can coordinate your activities with other teachers' schedules.
- Accept the need to take on non-instructional duties, but ask colleagues, a mentor or your principal if you're becoming overwhelmed with responsibilities.
- Be mindful of your words. Steer clear of gossip and negative talk. Be cautious when you are angry. It's difficult to rebuild relationships once angry words have been spoken.
- Communicate with your principal. Take the initiative to schedule a time when you can meet with your principal. Invite him or her to visit your classroom and give you constructive feedback. Listen carefully and respond to suggestions in a professional manner.
- Get acquainted with your local union. Find out who to go to with questions about your contract and your rights on the job; usually it's your building representative or local president. Get involved in activities of your local to help build a professional support system.
- Express your appreciation to those who help and support you.

