



For New and Potential Mentors: Frequently Asked Questions

Are students insured through the school?

Big Picture schools carry liability and accident insurance that covers students at LTI sites. Copies of the school insurance policy are available from the school office.

How will the students get to the LTI site?

It is the responsibility of the intern to get to and from the workplace. The school can provide bus tokens and has a fleet of vans prepared to help students with transportation if needed.

Can the student be a passenger in the car with me?

Arrangements are made for each situation. If in the course of the work it is necessary for the intern to travel with the mentor, the parent/guardian will need to sign a permission letter.

What if the intern is consistently late or acts/dresses unprofessionally?

Interns are at their LTI for real world learning. Treat the student like an employee, but realize that they are teenagers. In the beginning of the internship, set the standard you or your company expects. If during the LTI the student falters from that standard, address it with the student, and feel free to contact their advisor or LTI coordinator to discuss the situation. If the situation is not rectified promptly, hold the student accountable as you would an employee.

What are my responsibilities as a mentor?

Each mentor should demonstrate a commitment to the student's personal growth and workplace learning. Important responsibilities of a mentor include: Communication (with the student and with the advisor), Collaboration (attending exhibitions and mentor trainings), and Organization (planning a schedule with the intern, sharing resources and other skills).

How much of a time commitment am I making?

The Met asks that you host the intern for a minimum of three months. At the end of three months, the advisor and mentor re-evaluate the internship and either decide to wrap up the experience or to continue. Some interns stay at their internship for a whole year, some several months, and some several years. Each is a case by case situation, depending on the continued interest of both the student and mentor as well as the continued educational rigor.

What resources will be available to me?

The Met community supports mentors in any way we can. As a mentor, you will receive a mentor guide and have the chance to attend a mentor orientation and a winter workshop. In addition to the student's advisor being your point person, the LTI coordinator, LTI central office, and the principal are all available to help.

What if I am out of the office?

There may be times when you are out of the office. If you should know this in advance, please let the student and advisor know. The three of you can decide what will be the best course of action. It would be a good idea to have another point person at your office available to help if needed.

Can I pay the student?

No. The student is getting a hands-on education from you and that is enough payment in itself.

Can I have more than one intern?

Yes. You can definitely have more than one intern. However, before taking on this task, we want to remind you that being a mentor is more than just supervising. As a mentor, you are responsible for giving feedback to the student and the advisor as well as providing opportunities for the student to have a hands-on education.

Can a group of us have an intern and share the mentoring responsibilities?

Yes. A group of adults can mentor an intern. We just ask that there is one mentor appointed as the contact person.

What do I do if there is a problem?

If there is a problem or if you have a question, your first course of action is to contact the student's advisor. If the advisor is unavailable, you can contact the central LTI office or the principal.

What if I can't do Tuesday/Thursday from 9-3?

No problem. The interns from the Met are flexible in their internship hours. Tuesday and Thursday are general days that we have chosen as LTI days. If your schedule does not fit those days, feel free to talk to the student and the advisor and tweak the schedule.

Why should I be a mentor?

The question really is why shouldn't you be a mentor. Being a mentor allows adults like you to make a positive impact on the lives of teenagers. Being a mentor allows you to be a role model and educator to a student who is passionate about your field of work. Through genuine relationships, mentors teach a work ethic and model what it means to be an adult member of our community.

What makes this program unique?

The Met has been placing high school interns at job sites for the past 10 years. Our students have interned at over 1700 sites around Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Students acquire much of their learning through real world experiences. They pursue their passions in their internships and create projects that benefit not only their learning but also the internship site. Students make deep connections to their learning and to their mentor.