

Best Practices

for Having a Student Mentor/Peer Tutor In Your Classroom

The following suggestions are to prompt your thinking as you consider how best to use a Student Mentor or Peer Tutor in your classroom. They are meant to be descriptions of past successes and not prescriptions for how to utilize this powerful resource.

- Introduce your student to the rest of the class at least twice. Explain their role in your classroom. Open the door for the student to be able to walk up to students and check on their progress.
- Expect the student to participate in the class. They should take notes when you are teaching. Often it's good to empower them to sit in an open chair next to other students. It provides a great example to younger students.
- If you can give them a zone of operation, it is helpful. For example, having them sit with one pod of students each day or pairing them with a student who needs assistance. This gives the student focus and eliminates the need to provide a task for them each day.
- These students can be helpful for students that are absent. Incorporate them into your protocols. This may include a check-in with absent students during a work time to make sure they are aware of what happened during their absence.

Students are in the classroom every day. They are primarily to work with students in supporting the learning environment that you have established. They can work with only one student or a small group or with you during classroom instruction.