



# Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services

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## Mentorship Opportunities for Success for Life in the Work World

The ODBES and BAC teams are excited to offer students a unique opportunity to engage in mentorship sessions. These sessions are designed to help students learn about various careers, develop essential skills, and prepare students for their future in the workforce. We will host two mentorship cohort windows: one in February (Winter Session) and another in April (Spring Session). Each cohort will engage in three 30-minute mentoring meetings, with the first two taking place online (mentor joining a group by zoom) and the final session held in person at the school. ODBES will provide a 1-hour virtual mentorship onboarding with all companies. ODBES will provide an electronic background check for mentors at no cost.

### Mentorship Session Format

Each 30-minute mentoring session will involve one professional from your business working with a class of up to 8 students and a teacher. The sessions will be structured as follows:

#### 1. General Industry Information (10 minutes)

- Discuss the industry the mentor works in.
- Share future projections for job opportunities in this field.
- Explore the various roles available and the importance of the industry in the community.

#### 2. Essential Skills for Success (10 minutes)

- Identify key skills needed for success in the industry, such as:
  - Time management and staying on task
  - Producing high-quality work
  - Building positive relationships with colleagues and supervisors
  - Taking initiative and demonstrating pride in your work
  - Discuss how these skills can help you in your future career.

Skill	Description
Time Management	Ability to prioritize tasks and meet deadlines
Quality of Work	Focus on producing the best possible results
Positive Relationships	Building rapport with colleagues and supervisors
Initiative	Taking action without waiting for direction

Skill	Description
Pride in Work	Taking ownership and responsibility for your tasks

### **3. Advice for Future Professionals (10 minutes)**

- Reflect on what the mentor wishes they had known while in middle and high school.
- Highlight internship opportunities and ways to gain experience in the field.
- Provide tips on how to connect with professionals and learn more about potential careers.

#### **Who can be a mentor:**

The team at ODBES is open to anyone who would like to make a positive connection with our students and staff! When considering professionals from your business, we would love to work with professionals who can share their experience with high demand jobs. Those professionals who are deaf, blind or deafblind. Professionals who are family members of those who are deaf, blind, or deafblind. Professionals who are engaged with employee resource groups. We are excited to work with your team and learn from your experts.

#### **Benefits of Participating**

Participating in these mentorship sessions will provide students with valuable insights into various career paths, helping you to make informed decisions about your future. Students will have the chance to ask questions, gain knowledge from professionals, and learn about the skills and experiences that can lead to success for life in the workforce.

#### **Conclusion**

These mentorship opportunities with ODBES and BAC are designed to empower you on your journey toward a successful career. We encourage you to take advantage of this chance to learn from experienced professionals and to explore the possibilities that await you in the workforce.

ODBES looks forward to partnering with you at the mentoring sessions and helping students build success for life in their future work world!