E-Connect Mentors FAQs

What is E-Connect?
E-Connect is a school-based e-mail mentoring program that utilizes e-mail and school-supervised face-to-face meetings to connect local high school students with disabilities with employees from local companies. The purpose of the program is to help young adults connect with a caring adult in their community and explore topics related to careers and future employment.

For a thorough explanation, please review the Overview section of the E-Connect website at http://ici.umn.edu/e-connect.

How long does the E-Connect mentoring relationship last?
Typically, the mentoring relationship is established for 10-15 weeks or about one school semester. We suggest that programs run for a minimum of 10 weeks. We have found that programs of shorter duration do not allow enough time for a significant e-mail exchange and the required face-to-face meetings.

What training is involved?
All mentors are required to attend a one-hour training using the mentor training material. Typically, the E-Connect Coordinator provides this training using the Mentor Training Presentation (PPT). Mentors are also asked to read the E-Connect Program Manual (PDF) and complete a short Mentor Application (Word).

Will I get to choose my e-mentee?
After you complete a mentor application and the mentor training, your application will be forwarded to the classroom teacher. Teachers are responsible for matching mentors and mentees. Matches are often based on shared interests.

What kind of support is provided to the mentors?
A program liaison at your workplace is responsible for the ongoing support of mentors and mentees. Any questions or concerns you have during the mentoring program should be forwarded to both the classroom teacher and the program liaison at your workplace.

What if the relationship doesn’t work?
If problems arise between you and your mentee, the first thing to do is to contact the classroom teacher who will work with you to identify the problem and find a solution.

To date, the only relationships which haven’t worked out in E-Connect have been those where either the mentee or the mentor fails to send timely e-mails or has excessive absences. Most students and mentors enjoy the experience.
For more information, including the curricula, tools, samples, and more, please visit the E-Connect website at http://ici.umn.edu/e-connect.