

CHAPTER 7: Match Closure

Please be aware that many students transfer to different schools or their families move to different areas. As a result, Match Closure may happen mid-year. Please notify your Mentor Program Site Coordinator if you are aware that your student will be leaving the school. This will enable them to make appropriate referrals to the family if needed, to complete the Post Survey with the student and also confer with you regarding Match Closure activities.

Here are some ideas for your Match Closure:

- 1) Give several weeks before the end of the school year or end of the match period to begin the closure process
- 2) Set a specific date for your last meeting and inform your mentee of this ahead of time
- 3) Talk about the reasons for ending the match; be honest, candid and supportive (regardless of the reason for the closure)
- 4) Review the year by talking about fun activities and the personal impact on each other's lives; review journals, photos, drawings or other materials used to document the relationship
- 5) List new skills learned, challenges overcome, accomplishments, goals yet to be reached, and brainstorm strategies for the student to continue working toward goals
- 6) Exchange small, meaningful "closure gifts" with your student
- 7) Don't make promises that you may not be able to keep (e.g., that you will keep in touch)
- 8) Be positive and supportive, especially about what the future may hold for your mentee