

DO YOU HAVE A
H.O.S.T.S.
STUDENT IN YOUR CLASS?



**A teacher's guide to who they are
and what that means.**

HOSTS (Helping Our Students To Succeed) is a Flour Bluff ISD program for children on the brink of success. Offered at grades 3-12, HOSTS students are referred to the program by teachers, counselors and administrators. Sometimes even parents request that their child have a mentor.

The HOSTS program is sanctioned and managed by the district and requested and approved by each school's principal.

HOSTS mentors are community volunteers who submit an application, pass a background check and make a commitment to a child for one school year. However, most mentors stay with their kids until they graduate from high school.

The referral criteria for HOSTS includes:

- Low grades
- Excessive absences
- Excessive discipline referrals
- Family/personal circumstances

Each campus has a HOSTS liaison who manages their schools' mentor program. Check with your campus principal to find out who the campus liaison is.

The role you play in HOSTS is an important one. You're the person the mentor sees most often and, as such, may be receiving questions about the student. So here are some things you need to know:

- HOSTS is a relationship program. Mentors spend time with their kids talking, encouraging, coaching, guiding, cheerleading and, most of all, listening.
- HOSTS is not a tutoring program. Mentors are told this when recruited and during orientation. They may choose to ask a student if they need help with studies, but teachers should not ask a mentor to prepare a child for state testing or any other testing. Data confirms that, even though mentoring programs are not a tutoring initiative, students still see an improvement in grades.
- HOSTS is not a bargaining chip. Unless precluded by a school event or activity, students need to see their mentor every week - even if they've had a bad day. Students should not be prevented from seeing their mentor because of poor behavior. In reality, seeing their mentor often improves their behavior after they've had a chance to visit with their trusted friend.
- HOSTS mentors want feedback. Sometimes, that means they will ask you. If it's a simple "how has their day been" you may answer openly and honestly. If they want to know about grades please refer them to the HOSTS Liaison, who will know if the parent has given permission for the school to share that information.
- HOSTS mentors need to be informed. You may communicate with your mentor by email regarding the student's progress, schedule and other general information. However, it is not appropriate for you to comment on the student's personal family issues.