

# 2025-26 BEST Mentor Roundtable Session Descriptions

## Roundtable Session Description

All BEST Mentor Roundtables will be virtual (Zoom) until further notice. There are several Roundtable offerings with a specific emphasis or facilitation style. Please choose and register for the Roundtable that best fits your needs, interests, and schedule. You can find the session descriptions below.

*"I found value in each of the sessions I attended. I was able to always walk away with multiple strategies to implement immediately."*

- Roundtable participant (2024-25)

## SPED/ESA Roundtable

**pdEnroller:** <https://www.pdenroller.org/ospi/catalog/188615>

**Facilitator:** Andrea Schneider, BEST Mentor Faculty, K-12 ELA TOSA, Northshore SD

**Target Participant:** Special Educators, School Counselors, School Psychologists, School Social Workers, and Speech Language Pathologists or Audiologists

**Description:** These monthly roundtables offer a dedicated space for mentors who support special educators and Education Staff Associates (ESAs) including School Counselors, School Psychologists, Social Workers, Occupational and Physical Therapists, and Speech-Language Pathologists. Together, we will explore the unique mentoring needs of educators serving in these specialized roles through a lens of equity, collaboration, and professional identity. Mentors can expect a collaborative and supportive environment where they can share dilemmas of practice, deepen their coaching skills, and reflect on how to foster growth and confidence in novice educators who serve in complex and often isolated roles. Whether you are mentoring a new special education teacher or an ESA just entering the field, this space will help you build community and refine your practice.

## "Arise" with BIPOC Educators Roundtable

**pdEnroller:** <https://www.pdenroller.org/ospi/catalog/189096>

**Facilitator:** Ashley Dwight, BEST Mentor Faculty, Mentor Program Specialist, Kent SD

**Target Participant:** All BIPOC, particularly full-release mentors/coaches/district staff

**Description:** This Roundtable is inspired by the book "Arise" by Elena Aguilar. Educators who wish to build community with other BIPOC, deepen skills, and engage in meaningful conversations through the ARISE framework.



## “Arise” with All Educators Roundtable

pdEnroller: <https://www.pdenroller.org/ospi/catalog/189097>

**Facilitator:** Hilari Anderson, BEST Mentor Faculty, BEST Induction Coach, Mentor Program Specialist, Kent SD

**Target Participant:** This Roundtable is for participants seeking to grow innovative leadership skills as they mentor, coach and teach in a variety of school contexts.

**Description:** Each Roundtable will have a focus from Arise, both reading and practice, that will help us to build our skills to coach behaviors, beliefs, and ways of being. All educators are welcome, regardless of mentoring experience or current job title.

## BIPOC Educators Roundtable

pdEnroller: <https://www.pdenroller.org/ospi/catalog/189102>

**Facilitator:** Tanisha Brandon-Felder, BEST Mentor Faculty, Director of PreK and Elementary, Highline SD

**Target Participant:** Nakia alum and current cohort, BIPOC mentors, all educators at any level

**Description:** Realizing that the education system is less than 30% people of color, the needs of BIPOC mentors can be different. This space is carefully designed with that in mind.

## General Roundtable” Deepening Impact Through Reflective Practice

pdEnroller: <https://www.pdenroller.org/ospi/catalog/189107>

**Facilitator:** Mary Kirby, BEST Mentor Faculty, BEST Induction Coach, Educator Growth & Development Coordinator, ESD123

**Target Participant:** The target participants are both novice and experienced mentors and instructional coaches who support early career or developing educators. This includes full-release mentors, colleague mentors, and coaches seeking a collaborative, reflective learning community to deepen their impact. Participants may work across a range of school settings—elementary, secondary, or district-level—and share a commitment to educator development and advancing equitable outcomes for all students.

**Description:** Each session will explore key topics such as building trust, facilitating reflective conversations, providing effective feedback, and supporting educator growth. Sessions will draw from a range of respected frameworks and resources, including the work of Elena Aguilar, Jim Knight, and Lipton & Wellman, among others. Participants can expect an interactive and supportive environment where they can share experiences, practice skills, and learn from one another to deepen their impact as mentors and coaches.

## School Counselor Roundtable

pdEnroller: <https://www.pdenroller.org/ospi/catalog/189108>

**Facilitators:** Lauren Mendez, BEST Mentor Faculty, Chief Executive Officer, Washington School Counselor Association

Lisa Lucas, BEST Mentor Faculty, BEST Induction Coach, School Counselor, Seattle Public

**Target Participant:** School Counselors

**Description:** This Roundtable will specifically focus on discussions and resources relevant to the experience of school counselor mentors. Topics will include scenario-based discussion, ethical and professional practice, opportunities to practice mentoring skills, Comprehensive School Counseling Program Resources, and content relevant to college/career, academic, and social/emotional developmental domains.

## General Roundtable for New and/or Experienced Mentors

pdEnroller: <https://www.pdenroller.org/ospi/catalog/189100>

**Facilitators:** Linda Cowan, BEST Mentor Faculty, BEST Induction Coach, Full Release Induction Mentor, Northshore SD

**Target Participant:** The target of this roundtable is differentiating both experienced and those new to mentoring, so everyone feels welcomed, challenged, seen, and heard.

**Description:** The goal of this roundtable is to be responsive to the needs and experiences of participants. Given our monthly surveys, we will adjust our sessions to meet the challenges and circumstances you are navigating throughout the year.

## General Roundtable

pdEnroller: <https://www.pdenroller.org/ospi/catalog/189105>

**Facilitators:** Kjell Stroomer-Rowe, BEST Mentor Faculty, BEST Induction Coach, Instructional Coach, Kent SD

**Target Participant:** Coaches and mentors and anyone else who wants to attend.

**Description:** This Mentor Roundtable is grounded in the OSPI BEST Mentor Standards and will focus on coaching and mentoring as a sophisticated set of learned skills, which we will delve into and acquire, develop, and practice together through this Roundtable learning opportunity. The work will be interactive and applicable and focus on novice educator support. Choice time and a variety of resources will be offered and provided. This Mentor Roundtable is open to all levels of mentoring knowledge and experience.

## Asynchronous Roundtable

pdEnroller: <https://www.pdenroller.org/ospi/catalog/189110>

**Facilitators:** Kjell Stroome-Rowe, BEST Mentor Faculty, BEST Induction Coach, Instructional Coach, Kent SD

**Target Participant:** Mentors, Coaches, and anyone else who wants to join.

**Description:** This Mentor Roundtable learning opportunity is completely online and offered asynchronously, meaning that you can access resources and tools to support your coaching and mentoring work whenever you would like to at times and dates that work for you. There will be different content provided each month. As a participant in this Asynchronous Roundtable, you will need to engage in the monthly topics and activities and contribute to the online Discussion Board Forum in order to receive clock hours and credit for attending this Roundtable. The benefit of this Roundtable is that it provides greater access to learning materials and hopes to reduce barriers to regular Roundtable attendance by offering Roundtable content online (via Canvas). The work will still be facilitated by OPSI Mentor Faculty and ongoing support is available.

## Contact Information

For any questions, please contact [best@k12.wa.us](mailto:best@k12.wa.us).