

Significant Research and Readings on Comprehensive Induction

Induction is a comprehensive, coherent, and multi-year professional development process consisting of a carefully crafted array of people and activities designed to acculturate and train a new teacher to the goals and visions of a school or the school district. The goal of induction is to teach a new teacher effective teaching strategies and techniques that will improve student learning, growth, and achievement.

Coaches are part of a comprehensive induction program. They are qualified teachers who have been trained by a district to function as a team and to provide classrooms assistance with teachers and the students. Coaches have well-defined, goal-oriented responsibilities to improve teacher instructional skills and student learning on a sustained basis. The work they do is job-embedded in the classroom, which is how teachers learn best to become skilled and effective.

Mentoring is what a mentor does to provide guidance, support, and feedback to a new teacher. It is typically a one-on-one relationship that is frequently not monitored or assessed. Mentors can be fully trained by a school district or, more often than not, it is an experienced teacher who has been appointed to provide survival assistance with no academic goal in mind. If mentoring is a part of the induction process, it may be of value, but if mentors operate in sporadic isolation and have “reflective conversations,” there is no research to support this process.

On Mentoring

Over one million new teachers received mentoring between 1993 through 2003, but we know little about the magnitude of the benefits they have received or how the impact of mentoring varied across different types of programs.

Mentoring has become an extremely popular policy for improving the retention and performance of new teachers, but we know little about its effects on teacher and student outcomes.

Despite the popularity of mentoring, little is known about its impact on employee turnover and skill acquisition. Nearly all published and unpublished evaluations of mentoring programs have used research methodologies that fall short of providing credible estimates of the causal impacts of mentoring: Serpell (2000), Ingersoll and Kralic (2004), Lopez et al. (2004), and Strong (2005).

Mentors who share similar educational backgrounds and subject matter experience as their mentees don't seem to have any impact, good or bad, on teacher retention or student performance--despite the fact that this type of matching is often stressed by state law and supporters of mentoring programs.

Jonah Rockoff. “Does Mentoring Reduce Turnover and Improve Skills of New Employees? Evidence from Teachers in New York City.” NBER Working Paper, February, 2008.

In addition to the general dearth of quality research on mentoring, even less is known about mentoring in special education (Gehrke & McCoy, 2006; et al., 2002).

Wasburn-Moses, Leah. "Rethinking Mentoring: Comparing Policy and Practice in Special and General Education." Miami (OH) University, 2010. Access at http://www.nctq.org/tr3/conference/docs/tr3_conf_washburn-moses.pdf and Sparks, Sarah. "Study Finds Special Educators Have Less Access to Mentors." *Education Week*. January 12, 2011. p. 16.

The mentor-mentee relationship does have its fallacies. A few of the problems that often hinder the consistent success of the mentor-mentee concept are mentors are not available to help first-year teachers, mentors are poorly matched with mentees, sufficient time is not allocated for mentors to aid mentees, and some mentors lack the sincere commitment to assist mentees (Bauer & Leblanc, 2002; Cuddaph, 2002).

Tammy Lorraine Staten-Daniels. "How First-Year Teachers Support Their Peers." Doctoral study at Walden University. October 2009.

Just having one year of clinical experience under a relatively effective mentor does not ensure that graduates of the program will enter at a level above other novices.

Papay, John P., West, Martin, Fullerton, Jon, and Thomas J. Kane. "Does Practice-Based Teacher Preparation Increase Student Achievement? Early Evidence from the Boston Teacher Residency." NBER Working Paper No. 17646, December 2011.

Compared to formal mentoring, informal support from colleagues had a stronger effect on novice teachers' career decisions.

Kapadia, K., Coca, V., & Easton, J. Q. (2007). *Keeping New Teachers: A first look at the influences of induction in the Chicago Public Schools*. Chicago, IL: Consortium on Chicago School Research, University of Chicago.

Mentoring has, at best, been a poorly designed and ineffectively implemented interaction between the mentor and the mentee. Far too many new teachers experience a disillusioning relationship that provides little support during this crucial stage of their career.

Boreen, J. and D. Niday. *Mentoring Across Boundaries*. Portland, Maine: Stenhouse Publishers, 2003.

Our work suggests that schools would do better to rely less on one-to-one mentoring and, instead, develop schoolwide structures that promote integrated professional cultures with frequent exchange of information and ideas across experience levels.

Johnson, Susan Moore and Sarah E. Birkeland. "Pursuing a Sense of Success: New Teachers Explain Their Career Decisions." *American Educational Research Journal* (Fall 2003). p. 608.

A review of 20 years of claims about mentoring reveal that few studies exist that show the context, content, and consequences of mentoring.

Feiman-Nemser, Sharon. "Teacher Mentoring: A Critical Review." *ERIC Clearinghouse on Teaching and Teacher Education* ED 397 060, (1996).

Current research does not yet provide definitive evidence of the value of mentoring programs in keeping new teachers from leaving the profession.

Ingersoll, R. and J. Kralik. "The Impact of Mentoring on Teacher Retention: What the Research Says." *Education Commission of the States*. (February 2004). p. 15.

There is no consensus on what mentors should do, what they actually do, and what novices learn as a result of mentoring. Our results did not find a relationship between mentoring and teacher retention.

Wynn, Susan, Carboni, Lisa, and Erika Patall. "Beginning Teachers' Perceptions of Mentoring, Climate, and Leadership: Promoting Retention through a Learning Communities Perspective." (2007). *Leadership and Policy in Schools*, 6. pp. 209-229.

Most mentoring relationships lack any structure, are not monitored, and have no adequate follow-up procedure. The mentor may not have been trained, may not teach at the same grade level or academic subject, and the mentoring relationship at times has no coherence or collaboration to any state/district/school curriculum, plan, goals, or standards.

Wong, Harry K. and Rosemary T. Wong. (2010) "Developing and Retaining Effective Teachers and Principals." <http://www.effectiveteaching.com/pages.php?pageid=51>.

Negative outcomes have been reported and state that unstructured buddy mentoring can have harmful results and can actually be worse than no mentoring at all.

Head, F. et al. "The reality of mentoring: Complexity in its process and function," in *Mentoring: contemporary principles and issues*, ed. M. Bey and C. T. Holmes (Reston: Association of Teacher Educators, 1992).

Well documented need for supporting beginning teachers has led to a great deal of focus in the past two decades on mentoring practice in schools, however, there is little empirical evidence to support specific mentoring practices.

Bennetts, C. "Lifelong Learners: In Their Own Words." *International Journal of Lifelong Education* 20, no. 4 (2001). pp. 272-88.

Hawk, P. "Beginning Teacher Programs: Benefits for the Experienced Educator." *Action in Teacher Education* 8, no. 4 (1986-1987). pp. 59-63.

Little, J. "The Mentor Phenomenon and the Social Organization of Teaching," in *Review of Research in Education*, ed. C. B. Cazden (Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association, 1990). pp. 297-351.

Currently in more than thirty states, the universal practice seems remarkably narrow: Mentoring predominates and often there is little more. In many schools one-on-one mentoring is the dominant or sole strategy for supporting new teachers, often lacking real structure and relying on the willingness of the veteran and new teacher to seek each other out. Many mentors are assigned to respond to a new teacher's day-to-day crisis and provide survival teaching tips. Mentors are simply a safety net for the new teachers. Mentoring, in and of itself, has no purpose, goal, or agenda for student achievement. Thus, mentoring alone fails to provide evidence of the connection between well- executed professional learning communities and student learning.

Britton, E., Paine, L., Raizen, S., and D. Pimm. *Comprehensive Teacher Induction: Systems for Early Career Learning*. Amsterdam and San Francisco, CA: Kluwer Academic Publishers and WestEd, 2003. Available at www.WestEd.org.

Although there are occasional stories of how one person has been a successful mentor, the success of mentoring programs has been documented largely by opinion surveys. Long-term objectives, including the retention of new teachers and development of experienced ones, have had insufficient time to be realized.

Huffman, G. and S. Leak. "Beginning Teachers' Perceptions of Mentors." *Journal of Teacher Education* 37, no. 1 (1986). pp. 22-25.

The Swiss philosophy explicitly rejects a "deficit" model of mentoring, which assumes that new teachers lack training and competence and thus need mentors. Instead, there is a carefully crafted array of induction experiences for new teachers.

Wong, Harry, Britton, Ted, and Tom Ganser. "What the World Can Teach Us About New Teacher Induction." *Phi Delta KAPPAN* (January 2005). p. 380.

The evidence of stand-alone 'mentoring as induction' programs has been called into question. Although all districts had a mentoring program, about a third (33 percent) of the teachers were not assigned a mentor during their first year of teaching. Many teachers (27 percent) reported that they did not regularly collaborate with other teachers, nor did they visit the classrooms of more experienced teachers to observe their instruction (36 percent); 46 percent said they did not have regular contact with their principals.

Public Education Network. *The Voice of the New Teacher*. (Washington, DC: Public Education Network, (2004).

The mentoring component is essential to many induction programs, but is not helpful in and of itself.

Serpell, Z. and L. Bozeman. "Beginning Teacher Induction: A Report of Beginning Teacher Effectiveness and Retention" (Washington, DC: National Partnership for Excellence and Accountability in Teaching, 1999). Available at www.ericsp.org/pages/digets/BeginningTeachInduction.htm.

Despite the heavy emphasis on mentoring by many of the programs and by the literature on alternative certification, mentoring impacted fewer self-reported growth outcomes than either school context or coursework.

Humphrey, D., Wechsler, M., and H. Hough. "Characteristics of Effective Alternative Teacher Certification Programs." *Teachers College Record*, January 2008. pp. 1-63.

The mere presence of a guide does not improve teaching.

Alliance for Excellent Education. *Tapping the Potential: Retaining and Developing High-Quality New Teachers* (Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education, 2004), 13. [Reporting on the work of Kyle, Moore, and Sanders. "The Role of the Mentor Teacher: Insights, Challenges, and Implications." *Peabody Journal of Education* 74 (1999). 3-4. And Evertson and Smithy. "Mentoring Effects on Protégés' Classroom Practice. An Experimental Field Study." *Journal of Educational Research* 9 (2000). p. 5.] Available at www.all4ed.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

New teachers' needs are so variable and immediate that the appropriate combination of expertise, experience, and cultural background is unlikely to reside in ONE mentor who is available when needed.

Schlager, Mark, Fusco, Judith, Koch, Melissa, Crawford, Valerie, and Michelle Phillips. "Designing Equity and Diversity into Online Strategies to Support New Teachers." Presented at the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC), (July 1, 2003).

Mentoring is all the rage. There is some sort of deep hope on the part of everyone that if you get the right mentor, your life will be saved and you will be the teacher you remember. But the truth is that mentoring pairs seldom are anything but haphazard. They are driven by the schedule. They are often not pairs of people who really know the subjects that the individual is teaching.

Johnson, S. M. "Supporting and Retaining the Next Generation of Teachers." (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard Graduate School of Education, March 2003). Available at <http://www.simulconference.com/ASCD/2003/scs/>.

Professional development programs in the United States often are sporadic, incoherent in nature, lack alignment, and have no adequate follow-up procedure. We treat professional development as isolated events (such as mentoring), and not as a comprehensive, coherent, and sustained process.

Wang, A., Coleman, A., Coley, R., and R. Phelps. *Preparing Teachers Around the World* (Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service, 2003). Available at www.ets.org/research/pic.

We surveyed 110 new teachers in New Jersey. While 97 percent said they had a mentor, only 17 percent of the new teachers said that their mentors ever actually watched them teach in the classroom.

Kardos, S. "What Will It Take to Hold onto the Next Generation of Teachers?" *Harvard Graduate School of Education News*, (April 18, 2002).

While mentoring is the most widely practiced component of induction, mentoring by itself is not enough to retain and develop teachers. Mentoring programs vary widely and may do little more than ask mentors to check in with new teachers a few times per semester to chat.

Alliance for Excellent Education. *Tapping the Potential: Retaining and Developing High-Quality New Teachers* (Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education, 2004). p. 12. Available at www.all4ed.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

Many mentoring programs lack key pedagogical content and the structural characteristics of effective professional development that are needed to produce effective teachers. There is little coordination or communication between the various mentors creating gaps and redundancies that prevent new teachers from having the ability to assess their professional needs or development.

Gordon, S., and S. Maxey. *How to Help Beginning Teachers Succeed*, 2nd edition. (Arlington, VA: ASCD, 2000).

As mentoring programs have matured, it has become apparent that caring and insightful classroom teachers do not necessarily know how to mentor new teachers. Training people for the role of mentors serving teachers is a critical aspect of any effective program. It is simply not effective to identify people as mentors and then throw them into service in that capacity.

Daresh, J. C. *Teachers Mentoring Teachers: A Practical Approach to Helping New and Experienced Staff*. Thousand Oaks, Calif: Corwin, 2003. p. 28.

Although mentor training can increase mentor effectiveness, many who are setting up teacher induction programs are afraid to suggest that any training might be necessary for mentors. These fears often stem from the prospect of “turning off” mentors. However, without training and support for the mentors, an induction program may be little more than a haphazard effort at pairing new teachers with veteran teachers and hoping some good will come from the match.

Black, S. “A Lifeboat for New Teachers.” *American School Board Journal*, 188(9), 2001. p. 47.

The most critical weak links in ineffective mentoring programs are mentor training and support. These two elements are often missing because people assume that an excellent employee will naturally make an excellent mentor. In fact that is often not the case. Mentoring is a professional practice with its own knowledge and research base, strategies, and best practices. Without access to these “tools” of effective mentoring, the quality of mentoring is frequently inadequate to produce the kind of impact that the program was designed to produce.

Sweeny, B. *Developing, Evaluating and Improving Peer Mentoring and Induction Programs and Practices to Deliver a Higher Impact*. Wheaton, Ill.: Best Practice Resources, 2001. p. 21.

A search of the literature revealed that in most programs, mentor training consists of an introduction to mentoring at the beginning of the school year, perhaps followed by some kind of ongoing training. One of the shortcomings of many staff development programs is that they are ‘front-end loaded’ with little opportunity for systematic application, practice, and follow-up. One mentor related, “In my first year of mentoring, I felt like a new teacher. The information was given to us quickly, and I felt lost. You are fumbling around trying to look like a mentor, but what you really need is someone to mentor the mentor.”

Ganser, T. (2001). “Building the Capacity of School Districts to Design, Implement, and Evaluate New Teacher Mentor Programs.” *ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 452 168*, Springfield, Vir.: 2001.

This view of teaching requires an approach to new teacher induction that is different in scope and design from much of what currently passes for induction in this country: one-to-one mentoring of a novice teacher by a more experienced colleague whose primary goal is to help the novice survive the first year.

Unless we move beyond the traditional one-to-one mentoring model, we will continue to reinforce the Industrial-era practice of stand-alone teaching in isolated classrooms.

Fulton, Kathleen, Yoon, Irene, and Christine Lee. “Induction into Learning Communities.” *National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future* (August 2005). p. 1. Available at www.nctaf.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

Mentoring is a useful component of induction, but only one element of a comprehensive induction system.

Fulton, Kathleen, Yoon, Irene, and Christine Lee. “Induction into Learning Communities.” *National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future* (August 2005). p. 22. Available at www.nctaf.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

Mentoring alone will do little to aid in the retention of highly qualified new teachers. However, as an integral component of a structured induction program, it can be valuable. Understand that induction is ongoing and systematic, whereas a mentor may be someone who is assigned two weeks after the school year begins and may not be trained, compensated, or provided release time to help, much less be in the same building and teach at the same grade level or subject area.

Wong, Harry K. "Producing Educational Leaders Through Induction Programs." *Kappa Delta Pi Record* (Spring 2004). p. 107. Available at www.NewTeacher.com.

Many programs provide brief mentor training and/or orientation for mentors and mentees and then send them on their way with little or no ongoing support.

Lewis, A. "School Reform and Professional Development." *Phi Delta Kappan* 83, no. 7 (2002).

Only 6 percent of new teachers received in-class mentoring or coaching at least monthly. In addition, new teachers were likely to receive superficial support (e.g., their mentor prepared or sent materials) than support that might help improve their skills and knowledge of instructional techniques and classroom management, such as observing their mentor or having their mentor demonstrate a lesson.

Shields, P. et al. "The Status of the Teaching Profession 2003," in *Teaching and California's Future* (Santa Cruz, Calif: The Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning, 2003).

So called 'mentors' are everywhere these days, but they aren't often given release time or a clear, compelling charge. Research has not been found that supports the systematic formation of effective teachers solely through the use of mentors, especially mentors who show up after school begins and may not have been trained, compensated, or given direction or goals to attain.

Schmoker, M. quoted in Breaux, A. and H. Wong. *New Teacher Induction: How to Train, Support, and Retain New Teachers* (Mountain View, Calif: Harry K. Wong Publications, 2003). p. 55.

On Comprehensive Induction

Induction is a comprehensive, multi-year process designed to train and acculturate new teachers in the academic standards and vision of the district. All effective induction programs have three basic parts: 1. Comprehensive: There is an organization or structure to the program consisting of many activities and many people who are involved. There is a group that oversees the program and rigorously monitors it to be sure that it stays the course towards student learning, 2. Coherent: The various activities and people are logically connected to each other, and 3. Sustained: The comprehensive and coherent program continues for many years.

Wong, Harry K. "New Teacher Induction: The Foundation for Comprehensive, Coherent, and Sustained Professional Development," in *New Teacher Induction and Mentoring: The State of the Art and Beyond*, ed. Hal Portner (Thousand Oaks, Calif: Corwin Press, 2005). p. 47. Available at www.NewTeacher.com.

There needs to be widespread implementation of comprehensive, long-term teacher induction programs for new teachers. Induction is both a period of time and "a network of relationships and supports with well-defined roles, activities and

outcomes.” Induction ought to last up to three years and include such key elements as opportunities to observe and be observed by other teachers, common planning time, and participation in a network of teachers.

National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future. “Induction into Learning Communities.” *National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future* (Aug 2005). Available at www.nctaf.org/home.php and www.NewTeacher.com.

Longer, SUSTAINED, and intensive professional development programs make a greater impact than shorter ones. Teachers learned more in teacher networks and study groups than with mentoring or in traditional classes and workshops.

Garet, Michael, Porter, Andrew, Desmoine, Laura, Birman, Beatrice, and Kwang Suk Yoon. “What Makes Professional Development Effective?” *American Educational Research Journal* (Winter 2001). pp. 915-946.

Every district should offer a multi-year induction program that provides systematic help and support, and this cannot be done adequately by another teacher with a full-time load who drops by when time permits or when a problem arises.

Lehman, P. “Ten Steps to School Reform at Bargain Prices.” *Education Week* (November 26, 2003).

The data revealed that induction supports, activities, or practices rarely exist in isolation. Collectively, getting multiple induction components had strong and statistically significant effects on teacher turnover. Moreover, we found that as the number of components in the packages increased, both the number of teachers receiving the package and the probability of their turnover decreased.

Ingersoll, Richard and Thomas Smith. “Do Teacher Induction and Mentoring Matter?” *NASSP Bulletin* 88, no. 638 (March 2004). p. 35.

What new teachers need is sustained, school-based professional development – guided by expert colleagues. Principals and teacher leaders have the largest roles to play in fostering such experiences.

Johnson, Susan Moore and Susan M. Kardos. “Keeping New Teachers in Mind.” *Educational Leadership* (March 2002). pp. 13-16.

In the U.S., if new teachers receive any induction at all, it is typically delivered by a single mentor and is not well structured. The authors report on much more systematic approaches to induction that five other countries have adopted.

Wong, Harry K., Britton, Ted, and Tom Ganser. “What the World Can Teach Us About New Teacher Induction.” *Phi Delta Kappan* 86, no. 5 (January 2005). pp. 379-84.

Sustained and intensive professional development for teachers is related to student achievement gains. Effective professional development is intensive and connected to practice, focuses on the teaching and learning of specific academic content, and builds strong working relationships among teachers.

Darling-Hammond, Linda, Wei, Ruth Chung, Andree, Althea, Richardson, Nikole, and Stelio Orphanos. “State of the Profession.” (Spring 2009). *Journal of Staff Development*.

Once on the job, all beginning teachers must learn to teach to established standards, evaluate the effects of their instruction on student performance, use student achievement data for planning and curriculum, tailor instruction to address specific learning needs, and learn how to thrive in the culture of the school. This kind of learning can only happen in comprehensive induction.

Alliance for Excellent Education. *Tapping the Potential: Retaining and Developing High-Quality New Teachers* (Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education, 2004), p. 9. [Reporting on the work of Britton, E., L. Paine, S. Raizen, and D. Pimm, *Comprehensive Teacher Induction: Systems for Early Career Learning* (Amsterdam and San Francisco, Calif: Kluwer Academic Publishers and WestEd, 2003). Available at www.WestEd.org. Available at www.all4ed.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

A very small number (fewer than 1% of beginning teachers in 1999-2000) had a full “basic induction + collaboration + teacher network + extra resources” package that included those four components plus three others: participating in an external network of teachers, having a reduced number of preparations, and being assigned a teacher’s aide. The larger package further reduced the predicted rate of turnover—the predicted probability of a departure at the end of the first year for teachers receiving this package was less than half the probability for teachers who participated in no induction activities. The additive effects of the seven induction components on the likelihood of leaving were statistically significant.

Smith, Thomas M., and Richard M. Ingersoll. “What Are the Effects of Induction and Mentoring on Beginning Teacher Turnover?” *American Educational Research Journal* 41, no. 3 (Fall 2004). p. 705. Available at www.NewTeacher.com.

A comprehensive induction program includes a combination of professional development, support and formal assessments for new teachers during at least their first two years of teaching. Such programs have proven to be highly effective in keeping quality teachers in the profession, identifying teachers who perform poorly, providing clinical training, and building a strong community of teacher learners.

National Partnership for Teaching At-Risk Schools. *Qualified Teachers for At-Risk Schools: A National Imperative*. (2005). NPTARS@learningpt.org.

Only 1 percent of beginning teachers currently receive the ongoing support that constitutes comprehensive induction when they enter the profession.

Alliance for Excellent Education. *Tapping the Potential: Retaining and Developing High-Quality New Teachers* (Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education, 2004). p. 2. [Reporting on the work of Thomas Smith and Richard Ingersoll, “What Are the Effects of Induction and Mentoring on Beginning Teacher Turnover?” *American Educational Research Journal* 41, no. 2 (Summer 2004)]. Available at www.all4ed.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

Comprehensive induction is not a stand-alone mentoring program, however, rigorous it may be.

Alliance for Excellent Education. *Tapping the Potential: Retaining and Developing High-Quality New Teachers* (Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education, 2004). p. 3. [Reporting on the work of Thomas Smith and Richard Ingersoll, “What Are the Effects of Induction and Mentoring on Beginning Teacher Turnover?” *American Educational Research Journal* 41, no. 2 (Summer 2004)]. Available at www.all4ed.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

New teachers need from 3 to 7 years in the field to reach proficiency and maximize their student's performance. Comprehensive induction more rapidly develops teachers, moving the skill level of a new teacher to that of a fourth-year teacher within the span of one year.

Alliance for Excellent Education. *Tapping the Potential: Retaining and Developing High-Quality New Teachers* (Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education, 2004). p. 2. [Reporting on the work of Anthony Villar, *Measuring the Benefits and Costs of Mentor-Based Induction: A Value-Added Assessment of New Teacher Effectiveness Linked to Student Achievement*, (Santa Cruz, Calif: New Center, 2004)]. Available at www.all4ed.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

Induction cuts attrition rates in half.

Alliance for Excellent Education. *Tapping the Potential: Retaining and Developing High-Quality New Teachers* (Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education, 2004). p. 12. [Reporting on the work of Richard Ingersoll, *Is There Really a Teacher Shortage? Progress Through the Teacher Pipeline* (Seattle: Center for the Study of Teaching and Policy, 2003)]. Available at www.all4ed.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

Teachers who experience all the components of comprehensive induction are more likely to remain in teaching than those who only receive mentors.

Alliance for Excellent Education. *Tapping the Potential: Retaining and Developing High-Quality New Teachers* (Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education, 2004). p. 12. [Reporting on the work of Thomas Smith and Richard Ingersoll, "What Are the Effects of Induction and Mentoring on Beginning Teacher Turnover?" *American Educational Research Journal* 41, no. 2 (Summer 2004)]. Available at www.all4ed.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

Quality professional development is a sustained, intensive effort to improve teaching and learning. To improve instruction, professional development must be collaborative, long term, and content driven. Induction is a coherent part of other well-planned professional development activities.

Alliance for Excellent Education. *Tapping the Potential: Retaining and Developing High-Quality New Teachers* (Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education, 2004). p. 16. [Reporting on the work of Michael Garet, "What Makes Professional Development Effective?" *American Educational Research Journal* and "Principles for Professional Development." (Washington, DC: American Federation of Teachers, Winter 2002)]. Available at www.all4ed.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

A comprehensive induction program is one of the most effective methods for retaining quality teachers. While mentoring is often equated with induction, it is actually only one piece of a comprehensive induction program, which provides an extensive framework of support and guidance for new teachers. A growing body of research demonstrates that comprehensive induction can cut attrition rates by 50 percent. Well-crafted induction programs can improve teaching quality, stem high rates of teacher attrition and, in doing so, decrease the overall costs of teacher recruitment and retention.

The Southeast Center for Teacher Quality. "Teacher Recruitment and Retention Briefs." *The Southeast Center for Teacher Quality* (Dec 2004). Available at www.teacherquality.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

The professional development of new teachers yields the best results when the induction process is systematic and sustained.

Hiebert, James, Gallimore, Ronald, and James W. Stigler. "A Knowledge Base for the Teaching Profession: What Would It Look Like and How Can We Get One?" *Educational Researcher* (June/July 2002). pp. 3-15.

A study of seven urban districts reported that the only reform effort that clearly resulted in student achievement gains had clear instructional expectations, supported by EXTENSIVE (sustained) professional development, over a period of several years.

Cross, Christopher T. and Diana Wyllie Rigden. "Improving Teacher Quality." *American School Board Journal* (April 2002).

We need to provide a comprehensive induction program that involves more than just mentors. Mentors alone cannot hope by themselves to provide the range of input, feedback, and support beginning teachers need. Well-designed induction programs include specific roles for principals, superintendents, central office personnel, the teachers' union, parents, school board, and particularly the other staff members where the beginning teacher works.

Saphier, Jon, Freedman, Susan, and Barbara Aschheim. *Beyond Mentoring* Newton, Mass.: TEACHERS21, 2001.

Successful induction programs are not add-ons but are integrated into the professional practice of the school. They are conducted by a cadre of experienced classroom teachers, not just one-on-one mentors, and they depend on additional resources, both money and time—including release time for experienced teachers and staff developers and stipends to new teachers for additional training.

Johnson, S. M. *Finders and Keepers: Helping New Teachers Survive and Thrive in Our Schools*. San Francisco, Calif.: Jossey-Bass. 2007.

What keeps good teachers are structured, sustained, intensive professional development programs that allow new teachers to observe others, to be observed by others, and to be part of networks or study groups where all teachers share together, grow together, and learn to respect each other's work.

Wong, Harry K. "Induction Programs That Keep Working," in *Keeping Good Teachers* (Alexandria, Vir.: Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), Winter 2003).

Induction should be a stage in a continuum of teacher development. Induction should support entry into a learning community. Mentoring is a useful component of induction, but only one element of a comprehensive induction system. External networks supported by online technologies can add value. Induction is a good investment.

Fulton, Kathleen, Irene Yoon, and Christine Lee. "Induction into Learning Communities." *National Commission on Teaching and America's Future* (August 2005). p. 1. Available at www.nctaf.org and www.NewTeacher.com.

The Goal of Induction

The goal of induction is to teach new teachers effective teaching strategies and techniques that will improve student learning, growth, and achievement. To see how this is done, please download

<http://www.EffectiveTeaching.com/pages.php?pageid=51>

Induction is the process of preparing, supporting, and retaining new teachers. An induction program is designed to acculturate new teachers to the responsibilities, missions, academic standards, and vision of the district.

In an induction program, all beginning teachers learn how to demonstrate the following:

1. Teach to established standards.
2. Evaluate the effects of their instruction on student performance.
3. Use student achievement data for planning and curriculum.
4. Tailor instruction to address specific learning needs.
5. Learn how to thrive in the culture of the school.

The Difference Between Mentoring and Induction	
Mentoring	Comprehensive Induction
Focuses on survival and support	Promotes career learning and professional development
Relies on a single mentor or shares a mentor with other teachers	Provides an array of activities, people and administrative support
Treats mentoring as an isolated event	Induction is comprehensive and is part of a lifelong professional development process
Limited resources spent	Investment in an, comprehensive, coherent and sustained induction
Reacts to whatever arises	Acculturates a vision and aligns content to academic standards
Short term, perhaps a year	Long term, recurrent, sustained

Wong, Harry K. "Induction Programs That Keep New Teachers Teaching and Improving." *NASSP Bulletin* 88, no. 638 (March 2004). p. 45.

These are the characteristics of a high-quality professional induction program:

- **Comprehensive**—There is a structured curriculum with many and varied activities and people.
- **Coherent**—The varied activities and people are logically connected and fit together.
- **Sustained**—The program is lifelong and runs for many years to build, nourish, and maintain a culture.

Extent of Induction Programs and Teacher Retention	
Level of Training Received	Percent Leaving After 1 Year
No induction	41 percent
One component (Mentoring)	39 percent
Four components	27 percent
Seven components	18 percent

Ingersoll's research (above) found that a teacher who receives only the single component of mentoring is just as susceptible to leaving after one year as a new teacher who receives no induction at all.

Mentors may be fine for the first few months, but once the survival stage is over, new teachers want two things:

- 1. Demonstration Classes: They want to see other teachers teach in their classrooms and they want other teachers to come to their classrooms to see and advise them on their teaching.**
- 2. Networks: They want to be part of the learning community of the school. People crave connection. Mentoring, which is a one-on-one relationship, continues the practice of teachers operating in isolation.**

According to the Public Education Network (2004), researchers have identified the following components of effective induction program practices:

- Long-term planning for improving teaching and learning, aligned with the instructional philosophy of the school**
- Practices aligned with professional standards as well as state and local student learning standards**
- Incorporating a strong sense of institutional commitment with strong administrator support and involvement**
- Participation by all new teachers, whether entering the profession from traditional or alternative pathways**
- Input from beginning and veteran teachers on program design and structure**
- Begin prior to, extend throughout, and continue beyond the new teacher's first year of teaching**
- Provides opportunities for inductees to visit demonstration classrooms**
- Provides study groups in which new teachers can network and build support, commitment, and leadership in a learning community**
- Provides adequate time and resources for implementation**
- Provides reduced workloads, release time, and placement in classes with less, rather than more, demanding students**

- Provides quality mentoring, with careful selection, training, and ongoing support for mentors
- Provides ongoing assessment to determine whether the program is having its desired impact

Public Education Network. *The Voice of the New Teacher* (Washington, DC: Public Education Network, 2004).

Examples of Effective Induction Programs

There are currently many examples of exemplary comprehensive, coherent, and sustained induction programs:

- The eight-year new teacher induction program of the Flowing Wells School District of Tucson, Arizona has produced more finalists or state teachers of the year than any other Arizona district.
www.teachers.net/wong/APR10
- The New Teacher Induction Program of the Lafourche (LA) Parish Schools was adopted by Louisiana as its state model. Breaux and Wong (2003) *New Teacher Induction: How to Train, Support, and Retain New Teachers*
- The New Teacher Induction program of the Islip (NY) Public schools has shown an increase in the number of students taking and passing the Advanced Placement Test and has resulted in 99 percent of the graduating senior class earning a New York State Regents Diploma.
www.teachers.net/wong/DEC10
- The Prairie Rose School Division in Alberta has a district-wide induction program that has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of teachers expressing an interest in administration.
www.teachers.net/wong/FEB09

Coaches Are More Effective Than Mentors

When coaching is added to the staff development process, about 95% of the teachers implemented the new skill in their classroom.

Knight, Jim. "Coaching: The Key to Translating Research into Practice Lies in Continuous Job-Embedded Learning with Ongoing Support." (Winter 2009) *Journal of Staff Development*.

Next to the principal, coaches are the most crucial change agent in a school.

Fullan, Michael and Jim Knight. "Coaches as System Leaders." (October 2011) *Educational Leadership*.

The most important gift you can give a new teacher or any teacher is access to good leadership and good colleagues. Peer learning among small groups of teachers is the most powerful predictor of improved student achievement over time.

Jackson, Kirabo and Elias Bruegmann. "Teaching Students and Teaching Each Other, the Importance of Peer Learning for Teachers." (2009) Cambridge, Mass.: National Bureau of Economic Research.

Effective districts have coaches that meet with the principal on a regular basis to assess the progress of every teacher and their impact on student learning. In an effective school, everyone functions as a team with all efforts focused on student achievement.

- Mentors have **Roles** of being buddies.
- Coaches have well-defined **Responsibilities**.

Coaches are in the classrooms with the teachers and the students. The work they do is job-embedded, which is how teachers learn best to become skilled and effective.

Tom Guskey's research describes that coaches focus on student learning goals, identify small measurable steps to tailor goal accomplishment, and plan professional development that differentiates for each teacher based on needs. **The emphasis is on student learning with coaches coaching for learning.**

Differences Between Mentors and Coaches	
Mentors	Coaches
Are available for survival and support	Help teachers improve student learning
Provide emotional support; answer singular procedural questions	Coach to improve instructional skills on a sustained basis
React to whatever arises	Collaborate with administration and other teachers
Treat mentoring as an isolated activity	Part of job-embedded induction and staff development process
Mentor with reflective conversations	Coach to specific learning objectives
Are a buddy	Have a leadership responsibility

Whereas a mentor is dousing brush fires as they happen in each mentee's classroom, the coach's path is prescribed and goal oriented.

To see how coaches coach, see

- **"Coaches are more effective than mentors."** www.teachers.net/wong/FEB08
- **"Importance of academic coaches."** www.teachers.net/wong/MAR08

Teachers Want to Be Effective

A district's responsibility is to hire qualified teachers and then train them to be effective teachers.

New teachers want to be effective teachers. New teachers want more than a job. They want hope. They want to contribute to a group. They want to make a difference. Induction programs provide that connection because they are structured around a learning community where new and veteran teachers are treated with respect and their contributions are valued.

Salary notwithstanding, good teachers are more likely to choose to work in schools where there will be a “critical mass” of like-minded colleagues who share their commitment to student achievement and where the principal is the key to establishing this commitment to teacher improvement and student achievement.

Good teachers make the difference. Trained teachers are effective teachers. Districts that provide structured, sustained training for their teachers achieve what every school district seeks to achieve—improving student learning through effective teaching.

Wong, Harry K. “Induction Programs That Keep New Teachers Teaching and Improving.” *NASSP Bulletin* 88, no. 63 (March 2004). pp. 41-58.

The age-old approach of offering the next generation of teachers a one-on-one relationship appears contrary to the sensibilities of a generation of new teachers accustomed to group-learning environments.

Rather than mentoring them one on one, it would be more beneficial to create goal-oriented study groups, whereby young teachers could collaborate and develop proficiencies in curriculum and academic standards.

The U.S. education system typically views teachers as independent operators, encouraged to be creative and expected to do a good job behind closed doors. Collaboration is rare. Worse yet, new teachers seldom see another classroom in action. Loneliness and lack of support further exacerbate the frustrations of beginning teachers. To ask a Generation Y teacher to go solo in a networked world is writing that teacher's epitaph, and it might as well read: "Doomed from the start."

Why are we encouraging today's K–12 teachers to create group-learning environments within their own classrooms while simultaneously telling those same teaching professionals they will learn best in one-on-one mentoring programs? Accustomed to social networking and collaborative environments, today's young educators seem naturally inclined toward group structures.

Harry K. Wong and Rosemary T. Wong. “Teachers: The Next Generation.” *ASCD Express* 2(13), April 5, 2007.

The teachers we hire today will become the teachers for the next generation. Their success will determine the success of an entire generation of students. We can no longer condone the shortsighted practice of giving a new teacher a mentor and instructing them to reflect, one-on-one in isolation, with no coherence to or collaboration with any state, district, or school curriculum, plan, goals, or standards.

We know that student learning is directly linked to teacher effectiveness, which begins with an organized and structured process called induction. Induction programs have clearly articulated goals, administrative supervision, long-term objectives, networks that allow for structural and nurturing collaboration,

demonstration classes where teachers can observe and be observed, portfolio assessments to assess pedagogical knowledge and skills, and effective coaching.

The entire process is rigorously monitored and evaluated and it flows seamlessly into a sustained lifelong professional development process. That is why comprehensive induction is the foundation of a coherent and sustained professional development process from which we can go beyond.

Harry K. Wong. "New Teacher Induction: The Foundation for Comprehensive, Coherent, and Sustained Professional Development" from *New Teacher Induction and Mentoring: The State of The Art and Beyond*. Corwin Press (2005).