



## **Delaware Mentoring Council 2006-2007 Public School & Community Mentoring Survey: Methodology**

The Delaware Mentoring Council conducted its annual Public School & Community Mentoring Survey throughout April and May of 2007. Schools were initially contacted via e-mail to inform them that the survey would be available online beginning April 23. Schools were again contacted via e-mail from Secretary of Education Valerie Woodruff and the DMC on April 23 that the survey was available. Contact was made both one and two weeks later with schools that had yet to submit their surveys. On May 7, the official deadline, contact was made once more to all non-responding schools and community organizations. Beginning May 8, the non-responding schools were contacted via phone and e-mail several times in an effort to garner more responses. On May 18, the DMC stopped collecting surveys and began compiling statistics.

Of the 206 public schools and 6 community programs that we initially contacted, we received 208 responses. However, 4 of the schools we contacted did not have programs that fit our criteria (i.e. only provided adult or pre-kindergarten education or were not included within a school district). These schools included:

Delaware Skills Center  
New Castle County Learning Center  
Alfred I. duPont Hospital School  
Delaware Early Childhood Center

Excluding these four schools, we received responses from 100% of the programs surveyed. The response rate for the 2005-2006 survey was 78%.

Additionally, the percentages in the survey were calculated out of a total of 192 surveys, because 2 school districts completed district-wide surveys. Appoquinimink School District completed one survey that included data for 10 separate schools, and Delmar School District completed one survey encompassing data for 2 schools. We did not include the individual surveys for these schools in the total count, because the students would have been double counted within the district-wide survey.

Since the addition of community mentoring programs to this year's survey, the DMC has calculated separate results for community versus school mentoring programs. This year, 5 of the 6 community programs that we surveyed are receiving grant funds from the Delaware Department of Education. It is our hope to expand the survey to include more community programs in 2007-2008, especially programs operating in Kent and Sussex counties.

Another note should be made on how we determined the number of students in need of a mentor. Section 6 of the survey asked about the current need for mentors. Numbers varied greatly in responses to this section. Please see Section 6 below to understand how we gathered these numbers.

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### **6. Assessment**

**Please complete Section 6 even if you do not currently have a mentoring program in operation.** *Section 6 is designed to determine the current state of your mentoring program, or, if you do not have a mentoring program, to determine why and how we may be of assistance to your organization in developing a mentoring program.*

The Delaware Mentoring Council determines youth in-need of mentoring relationships as being/having one or more of the following characteristics:

- At risk of academic failure
- In low-income families
- Living with a single parent

- Single teen mothers
- In foster care
- Challenged by disabilities
- In need of attention by a caring adult

To determine the number of youth in your organization who are in need of mentors, use the above characteristics as guidelines. (If your organization is a public school, you may want to use the number of students who receive free or reduced lunch as further guidance.)