



CollegeSpring has compiled a set of Best Practices that are related to maximizing student outcomes through strong CollegeSpring mentors.

Different students may be best served by different mentors. Thus, the recommendations in this report cover the characteristics that should be present in a region's *portfolio* of mentors. They may not be met by every mentor individually.

## Academic Background

Mentors with strong SAT scores will help maximize student score gains, particularly for students with average and above baseline scores.

Mentors with more recent experience with basic SAT content in their classes (e.g., math, reading, grammar) will be more effective tutors.

## Personality & Relationship-Building Skills

Mentors should be evaluated for ability to engage students but bring them back to focus on SAT prep when necessary.

Mentors who can show students that they are personally invested can help improve scores for low-baseline, unmotivated students.

Mentors who had a unique pathway to college can help inspire students to apply and attend college.

A strong region will have a portfolio of these mentors that they can distribute to where they are most needed. Sites with low engagement may benefit from mentors with the skills on the right. Sites with slow score improvement may benefit from mentors with the skills on the left.