



## NEA-New Mexico Virtual Mentoring POD



**A Mentorship Program for Alternatively Licensed NEA-NM Member Educators**

### *Feeling Lost in the Classroom?*

### *Find Your Support Network with NEA-NM's Virtual Mentoring POD!*

Are you in an Alternative Licensure Program and navigating the exciting yet challenging world of education? NEA-NM's Virtual Mentoring POD is here to help!

#### **What is a Mentoring POD?**

Think of a POD as your personal professional learning squad. It's a small (3-5 members), supportive group of educators led by an experienced NEA-NM Mentor who will:

- Offer guidance and advice on everything from lesson planning to classroom management.
- Share their expertise and insights based on their years of experience.
- Create a safe space for you to ask questions, share challenges, and celebrate successes.
- Connect you with a network of colleagues who understand your unique needs as an early career educator (educator in their 1-5 years).

#### **Why Join NEA-NM's Virtual Mentoring POD?**

- **Flexibility:** Meet online with your POD, fitting your busy schedule.
- **Community:** Build meaningful connections with other passionate educators.
- **Growth:** Gain new skills, perspectives, and confidence in your teaching.
- **Support:** Access a network of mentors and peers ready to help you thrive.

***Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our students!***

#### **Ready to take your teaching to the next level?**

Join NEA-NM's Virtual Mentoring POD today! Visit our website at [www.neanm.org/professional-excellence](http://www.neanm.org/professional-excellence) to learn more and apply.



## Virtual Mentoring POD FAQs

### **What is a Virtual Mentoring POD ?**

A mentoring POD, which stands for Peer-Onsite-Distance , is a specific type of mentoring program that aims to provide support and guidance for educators in Alternative Licensure Programs. It functions differently from traditional one-on-one mentoring by incorporating a small group dynamic, consisting of 3-5 members.

### **Who can join a POD?**

PODs are open to any educator in one of NM's Alternative Licensure Programs who is interested in receiving mentorship. Programs include:

- Alternative Educator Prep Program
- Post-Secondary Experience
- OPAL Pathway Program

### **How often do PODs meet and how long are the meetings?**

PODs will typically meet every other week for 1-2 hours. Ultimately, meeting frequency and length will be determined by each PODs' members.

### **What platform do PODs use to meet?**

All meetings will be on the Zoom platform.

### **How am I matched with a mentor?**

Matching will be done based on a variety of factors including but not limited to: content/speciality areas, grade level, mentee's goals and interests. If you have a particular preference, please let us know.

### **Who are the NEA-NM Mentors that facilitate PODs?**

POD Mentors have been in the NEA-NM Mentor Program for 1 or 2 years. They have received robust training that aims to cultivate the dispositions and skills needed to support early career educators. Mentors receive continuous support and training from NEA-NM Center for Community Schools Mentor Trainers.

### **What are additional benefits of joining a POD?**

Joining a POD offers a variety of benefits to support your professional development journey. You'll receive ongoing guidance through biweekly meetings with a NEA-NM CCS mentor, exploring a range of topics including: creating effective testing and study plans, lesson planning, breaking down standards and classroom management strategies. Additionally, you'll connect with local NEA-NM leadership and gain access to exclusive gatherings and events for Early Career Educators. Finally, POD membership grants you access to NEA-NM Center for Community Schools' Beginning Educator Series and Professional Learning Series sessions.