



About the True2U Program

True2U is a volunteer mentoring program that helps every 8th grader in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District develop good decision-making skills and encourages them to leverage their strengths and interests as they start out on their paths to high school, college, and/or career choices. Mentors use their unique backgrounds and the True2U curriculum to assist students in better understanding themselves and the opportunities available to them.

True2U:

Helping Students Discover more about themselves and prepare for their futures.



Program Components Include:

- **Program Launch**
True2U kicks off in a fun way with an introduction to careers and an inspirational speaker to get students excited about their upcoming True2U journey.
- **Mentor Training**
Mentors are trained throughout the year in facilitation techniques, cultural competency, and the True2U Curriculum.
- **Mentoring Sessions**
Over the course of seven in-school sessions, mentors and students spend time getting to know each other by participating in a variety of activities and discussions designed to help students learn more about themselves and careers and to make decisions to help them achieve their goals.
- **Out of School Experiences**
Each spring, program staff organize day-long field trips for every True2U school. These out of school experiences take students out of the classroom for behind-the-scenes tours of local workplaces to see first-hand the kinds of careers available to them in our local economy. Students also tour a college campus to learn more about their options after high school.
- **Finale Celebration**
The program year ends with a Finale Celebration – over the course of three days all 2,500 8th graders come together with their mentors to reflect on their experiences in the program and to focus on making a smooth transition to high school.



By the Numbers

In 6 Years...

12,500

students served

970+

different mentors
joined us

62

K-8 buildings
currently served

50,000+

hours donated to our students

\$1.2 Million+

in donated time*

* based on volunteer rates from https://independentsector.org/resource/vovt_details/.
These calculations include mentor training, preparation, and time spent with students.



Extension Programs

● Summer Leadership Academy

Presented in partnership with Youth Opportunities Unlimited, the Summer Leadership Academy provides training in leadership, service learning, and communication skills to a select group of rising 9th graders to support them as they prepare for their transition to high school.

● 9th Grade Extension

A one-on-one mentoring program, the 9th Grade Extension explores topics such as financial literacy, entrepreneurship, college readiness, and the importance of setting goals.

● True2U CollegeBound

True2U CollegeBound is a partnership with Cleveland State University and Cuyahoga Community College to provide college student mentors to tenth and eleventh graders.

COVID Adaptations

- Moved to completely remote
- Modified and streamlined curriculum for remote environment
- Still able to provide volunteer mentors to every 8th grader in the CMSD
- Provided the opportunity for mentors living as far away as China to join us!

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true2umentor.org

Program Partners

