

# The Current Status of Beginning Teaching Mentoring and Induction Programs Across the US

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## METHOD

States ( $N = 51$ , including the District of Columbia) were divided by NAFME region and assigned to each member of the research team. We then searched our assigned state DOE/BOE and MEA sites to locate demographic information regarding mentor program(s) for beginning teachers. All data was compiled into a shared electronic database. After the initial data collection, findings were "fact-checked" by other members of research team for reliability in reported results. Finally, each member was assigned a demographic category to analyze and subsequently arrange for presentation.

## FINDINGS

Regulating entities – Most programs regulated by DOE or BOE  
Required by state? – Yes ( $n = 31$ , 60.78%); No ( $n = 18$ , 35.29%)  
Required by MEA? – No state MEA programs required mentoring  
Funding – Most states have no dedicated funding for mentoring programs.  
Guidelines for implementation – State usually provides guidelines for programs  
Program length – Majority of existing programs are between 1–3 years in length.  
Program age – Approx. 40% of programs ( $n=20$ ) started between 2006–2015.

## DISCUSSION/FURTHER QUESTIONS

Why the recent surge in mentor programs?  
● Race to the top? Other legislation?

Continue to investigate gaps in current findings.  
● Why is this information so difficult to locate/confirm?

How do we (as music teacher educators) capture those beginning teachers who are not involved in their state MEAs or NAFME?

How to guide early career music teachers towards membership / involvement?  
● Mentoring Page on the NAFME Website

*Interested in joining the continued project?  
Email [cbaumgartner@ou.edu](mailto:cbaumgartner@ou.edu) or visit our ASPA webpage:  
<http://smte.us/aspas/professional-development-for-the-beginning-teacher/>*

