

FROM A TEACHERS PERSPECTIVE

- icouldbe.org provides an opportunity for educators to give their students an outside perspective on career and college without ever leaving the safety of the classroom.
- Students work through their online curricula at least one class period per week over the course of an academic year.
- Reminders are emailed to the classroom teacher, the young person and their mentors if the mentee isn't keeping up with their work and at any time, teachers can check on the progress of their students and keep an eye on exactly what they're doing.
- The site's top-level administrative area provides an overview of all users' communications and progress through the curriculum. To ensure online relationships are developing, special administrative portals allow for in-depth reporting and analysis.
- Program staff reviews meta-level data on schools and students, noting patterns and problem solving issues as they arise. Queries, to see who's doing well and who needs help, are sorted by levels and frequencies of participation and are available to administrators to continuously provide teachers, with valuable information on program
- In order to best monitor and track young people's progress as they work through the curriculum, icouldbe.org created a system of automatic notifications. The program reacts dynamically to the level of participation and progress of individual users--both mentors and mentees. It records their level of activity and sets clear benchmarks of progress for community members. Depending on how dedicated the mentors and mentees are--how often they interact online and how well the mentee is working through the curriculum--the program reacts and targets them with unique communications.
- Built-in protocols automate the majority of these communications, ensuring consistency and quality in mentor-mentee relationships. Students' progress on the site is rewarded with additional user permissions, for example the ability to change their profile or post more liberally on the discussion boards, a popular place for young people to interact. Motivated mentors can monitor discussion boards and many of icouldbe.org's future features will focus on expanding the role of the online mentor.

- One of the unique features of the icouldbe.org platform is that students create their own pathways through a dynamic and conditional curriculum. Students choose between tracks that interest them and learn at their own pace. While mentees work through their chosen curricula, mentors provide qualitative support and guidance on their progress, encouraging them and sharing their own professional and personal experiences. Mentors approve students' progression into subsequent modules after giving feedback and commenting about their mentees' work. Teachers are notified at various points in the process, and also have access to their students' progress through a purposed interface designed specifically for their needs on the platform.