



## Check & Connect in Florida

The Florida State Personnel Development Grant is working with 16 school districts in Florida to implement the Strategic Instruction Model (SIM), and/or Check and Connect. Because schools and districts that are not currently targeted by SPDG have expressed interest in implementing Check & Connect, the SPDG has developed this document to provide information on resources and supports that are available to those schools and districts.

### Online Resources

- National Check and Connect website: <http://checkandconnect.umn.edu/> The Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota, is home to Check and Connect. The website has excellent introductory information for administrators, videos, online resources, information on communities of practice, and research about Check and Connect.
- Florida Check and Connect website: <http://project10.info/DetailPage.php?MainPageID=279> The Check and Connect project in Florida is part of the Transition Education Project (Project 10) which is focused on implementation of Check & Connect in secondary schools. Nationally, Check and Connect is implemented in grades K-12.

### Training Availability

- The SPDG provides two types of training; a one-day Preparation and Implementation session and a two-day Mentor training. The Preparation and Implementation session is targeted at school and district leadership teams. This session walks the team through an 11-step planning process to prepare for implementation at a specific local site. Mentor training prepares the individual mentors to implement the Check and Connect model. SPDG offers this training in locations throughout the state. There is no cost for the training for non- SPDG schools. The training is on a space-available basis. For information about upcoming sessions and training opportunities, contact Peg Sullivan, Director SPDG Administration Project, at [msullivan@fgcu.edu](mailto:msullivan@fgcu.edu).



- The SPDG is preparing individuals to be Check and Connect trainers who will continue to provide this training after the grant ends.

#### Mentor Funding Models

- The national Check & Connect office has developed an information page about implementation models and funding tips at [http://checkandconnect.umn.edu/implementation/options\\_funding.html](http://checkandconnect.umn.edu/implementation/options_funding.html).
- In Florida the SPDG has been providing funding in the form of supplements and stipends to assist existing school personnel to serve as mentors. The Tampa Housing Authority (THA) has adapted the Check & Connect model to support students in two of THA's public housing developments. For more information visit their website at <http://www.thafl.com/Departments/Program-Services/CheckAndConnect.aspx>. The United Way of North Central Florida has partnered with Alachua County Schools and AT&T to provide full-time mentors in three high schools. For more information visit their website at <http://www.unitedwayncfl.org/CheckandConnect>.
- The Hillsborough County Public School Board has embedded Check and Connect into the Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports and has been using district funds to implement Check & Connect district-wide.