

Check & Connect works with students by...

- Building a persistent, positive, and trusting relationship with students and their families;
- **Checking** and tracking situations which may put a student at risk of failing classes or leaving school, such as excessive absences, behavior referrals, and poor grades;
- **Connecting** with students to find ways to address disengaged behaviors and help students re-connect to school and academics;
- Teaching students skills aimed at improving academic success, such as problem-solving and goal setting; and
- Facilitating home-school collaboration to ensure students' educational success.

Partners in the Florida implementation of Check & Connect Include:

- Central Florida Parent Center
- Family Network on Disability, Inc.
- Parent to Parent of Miami
- SPDG Management Project at Florida Gulf Coast University
- University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration



Florida's State Personnel Development Grant,
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Florida's Check & Connect Project Manager

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What is Check & Connect?

Check & Connect is a model of ongoing, systematic intervention and support to promote students' engagement at school and with learning.

Each student participating in Check & Connect is assigned a mentor. Check & Connect mentors seek to build long-term, sustained relationships with participating students that will connect them with their school and help them make academic progress.

Key Features of Check & Connect

- **Preventive:** Check & Connect focuses on watching for signs of withdrawal and providing timely interventions to keep students engaged.
- **Builds Capacity:** Check & Connect works with students to build new skills such as problem solving and goal setting.
- **Efficient and Adaptable:** Check & Connect builds on existing programs, services, and resources within the home, school, and community.
- **Provides Outreach:** Check & Connect creates long-term trusting connections between schools, youth, and families.

- **Individualized:** Check & Connect uses a systematic and organized approach, focusing on the needs of each individual student.

Check & Connect in Florida

Various schools throughout Florida will begin implementing Check & Connect in the 2013–14 school year to help secondary ESE students be successful in school.

Participating students will receive Check & Connect services for at least two years. Students participating in Check & Connect will meet with their mentors on a weekly basis.

Parents/guardians whose students are participating in Check & Connect will receive regular updates from their child's mentor and are encouraged to contact the mentor with questions and concerns related to supporting their child's academic engagement and success.

Participating schools and districts have assigned teams to oversee the implementation of Check & Connect and receive ongoing training and technical assistance through the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) project housed at USF-St Petersburg and headed by Ms. Lael Engstrom, MSW.

Grounded in Research

Check & Connect is a nationally recognized program with proven success. Of the dropout prevention interventions reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education's [What Works Clearinghouse](#), Check & Connect is the only program found to have strong evidence of positive effects on staying in school.

Check & Connect was developed through a partnership between the University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration and Minneapolis Public Schools. Since its inception in 1990, Check & Connect has been studied and implemented with K–12 students with and without disabilities, in suburban and urban settings. Check & Connect is currently being implemented by schools and community organizations across the U.S. as well as abroad.

For more information, contact Florida's Check & Connect Project Manager or visit:

checkandconnect.umn.edu

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