Check & Connect

TARGET AUDIENCE
This program is for students in kindergarten through 12th grade who are at risk for dropping out of school.

SUMMARY
Check & Connect, a school- or community-based student engagement program, is designed to improve participants' academic performance, behavior, and attendance by matching students with trained mentors who work directly with students.

EVIDENCE
Results across several randomized controlled trials are mixed. Positive results include significant increases up to 4 years after program implementation on students’ participation in school and school performance when compared to control students, significant decreases in drop-out rates at the end of high school, and significant increases in students’ participation with their transition plans in their Individualized Education Programs in comparison to control students. However, other studies have found no differences between intervention and control groups in grade point average or academic progress, office disciplinary referrals, measures of engagement, the likelihood of dropping out, or graduation rates. In addition, studies have been conducted on elementary school students; however, results are unclear due to study design.

COMPONENTS
Check & Connect creates partnerships among the school, home, and family using four primary components that are designed to enhance students’ engagement in school.

- Mentor: Develop a positive, trusting relationship with students and help to make education a priority in the student’s life for at least 2 years;
- Check: Monitor school attendance, behavioral issues, and academic performance;
- Connect: Provide timely individualized intervention based on the student’s need; and
- Home-school communication: Enhance the communication between the school and the student’s home in order to increase home support for learning.

These four components work to counter student risk factors that may lead to low academic performance, dropping out of school, and anti-social behavior.

PREVIOUS USE
Check & Connect, developed by the University of Minnesota in 1990, has been used across the United States and internationally.
## Check & Connect

### TRAINING

This program is implemented by trained mentors. There is a comprehensive manual to help with program implementation and several on-site and off-site options for training. One- and two-day, off-site or on-site Preparation and Implementation, Mentor, and Comprehensive Implementation training workshops are available. Workshop costs range from $325 to $625 per person for off-site training. On-site costs are based on the number of participants. Please visit [www.checkandconnect.umn.edu/training_consultation/default.html](http://www.checkandconnect.umn.edu/training_consultation/default.html) for more information.

### CONSIDERATIONS

Considerations for implementing this program include acquiring administrative and participant buy-in, obtaining facilitators and ensuring they receive training, and finding time for mentors and students to meet during an existing daily schedule. The Clearinghouse can help address these considerations. Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

### IMPLEMENTATION

If you are interested in implementing Check & Connect, the Clearinghouse is interested in helping you! Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

### TIME

This program operates throughout the school year, and mentors check in with their students weekly. Mentors typically maintain their caseloads for a minimum of 2 years.

### COST

Implementation costs vary based on location and number of mentors and participants. The manual and supporting materials are included in the training costs or can be purchased separately. If purchased separately, manuals cost $50 each.

### EVALUATION PLAN

To move the Check & Connect program to the Promising category on the Clearinghouse Continuum of Evidence at least one evaluation with a strong study design must be conducted that demonstrates sustained, positive outcomes on all key program outcomes. The Clearinghouse can help you develop an evaluation plan to ensure the program components are meeting your goals. Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

### CONTACT

Contact the Clearinghouse with any questions regarding this program. Phone: 1-877-382-9185 Email: Clearinghouse@psu.edu

You may also contact Check & Connect by mail Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota, 150 Pillsbury Drive SE, 6 Pattee Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55455, phone 1-866-434-0010, email checkandconnect@umn.edu or visit [http://checkandconnect.umn.edu/contactus/default.html](http://checkandconnect.umn.edu/contactus/default.html)

### SOURCE

[www.checkandconnect.umn.edu](http://www.checkandconnect.umn.edu); Heppen et al. (2017); and Powers, Hagans, and Linn (2017).