



February 25, 2021

Welcome to Part 1 of our Webinar Series: *Supporting Secondary Students with Intensive Needs During the Pandemic*



Webinar Series

Webinar 1 Check and Connect: Implementation and Adaptation in a Virtual Environment

- Date: February 25, 2:00-3:00 EST

Webinar 2 Early Warning Systems: Using Data to Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year

- Date: March 24, 2:00-3:00 EDT
- Registration link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/847522667512198156>

Webinar 3 Intensive Intervention: Supporting Secondary Students with Intensive Behavior Needs

- Date: April, TBD
- Registration link to come!



Disclaimer

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Panelist Introductions



Eileen Klemm, M.A.

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Ann Romine

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Elaine Miller

Check & Connect Director, Florida State Personnel Development
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**CHECK &
CONNECT**

ICI

INSTITUTE *on*
COMMUNITY
INTEGRATION

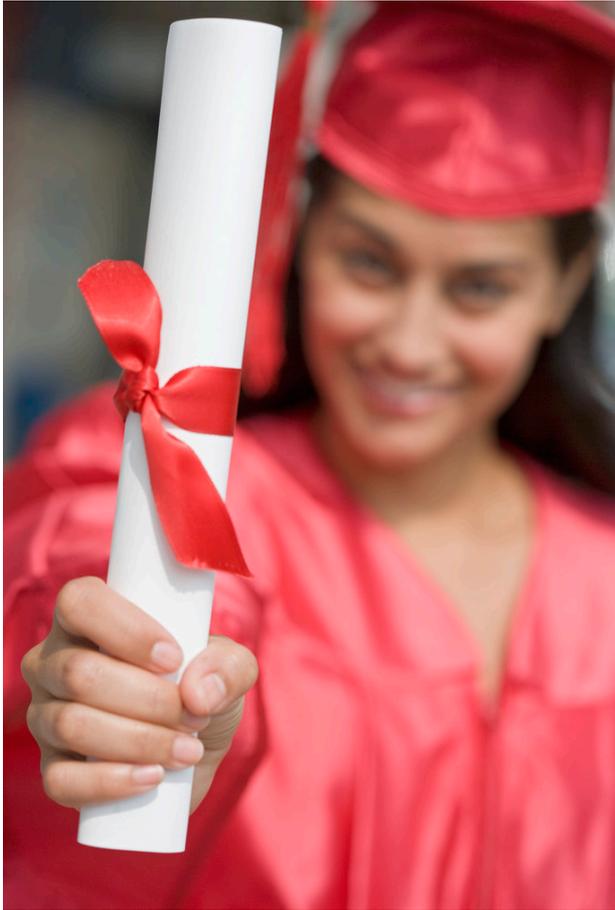


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Agenda

- Overview of Check & Connect
 - Model
 - Self-Paced Online Training and Support Modules
- Online Mentoring Guide
- Florida Check & Connect
 - Training and Implementation Support During COVID-19
- Q&A

Check & Connect Overview



- Structured mentoring intervention
- Promotes student engagement
 - At school
 - With learning
- Focus on school completion

Evidence-Based Intervention

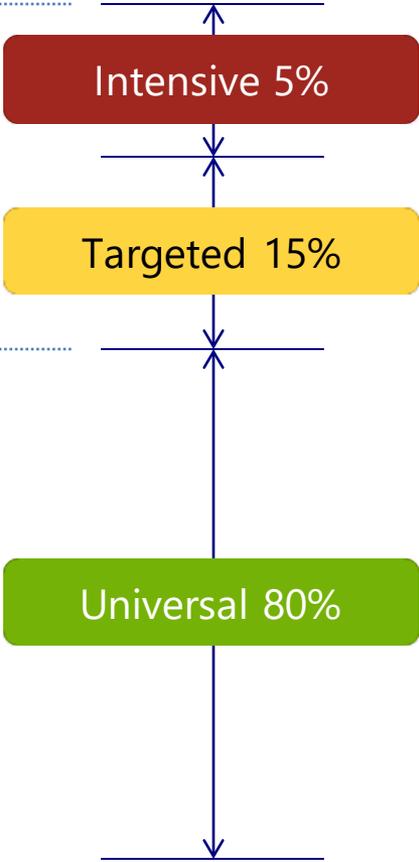
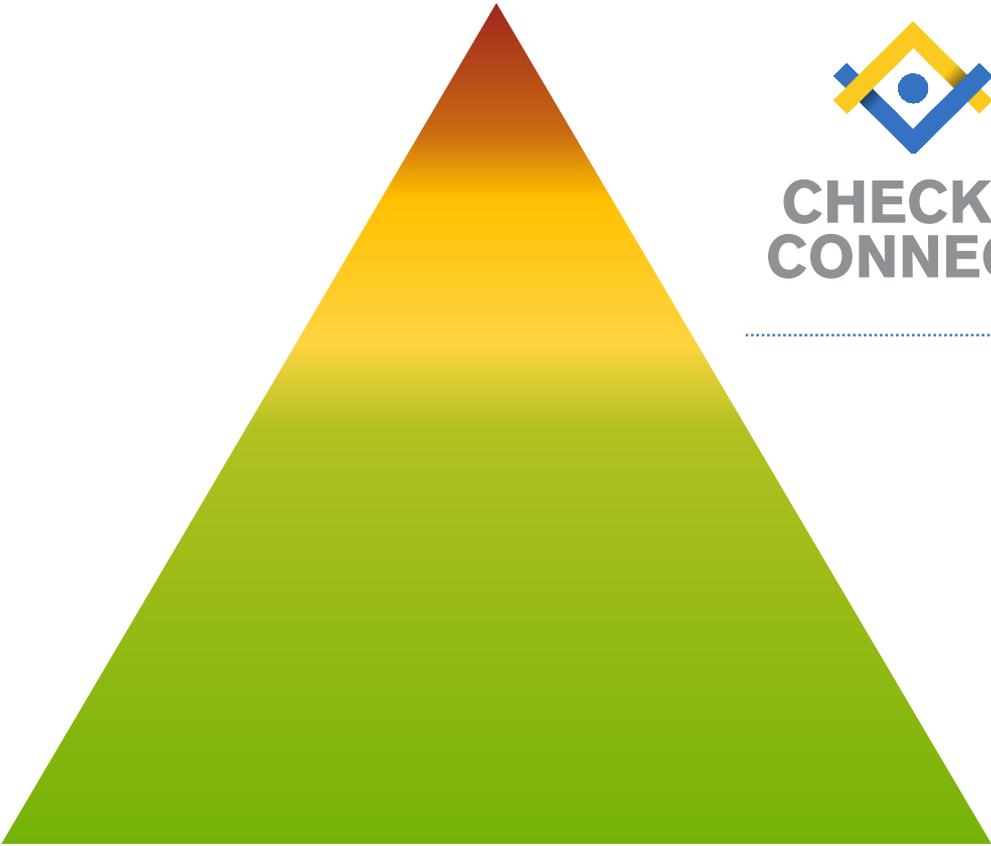
Check & Connect has met the evidence standards of the What Works Clearinghouse (2006, 2015):

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>

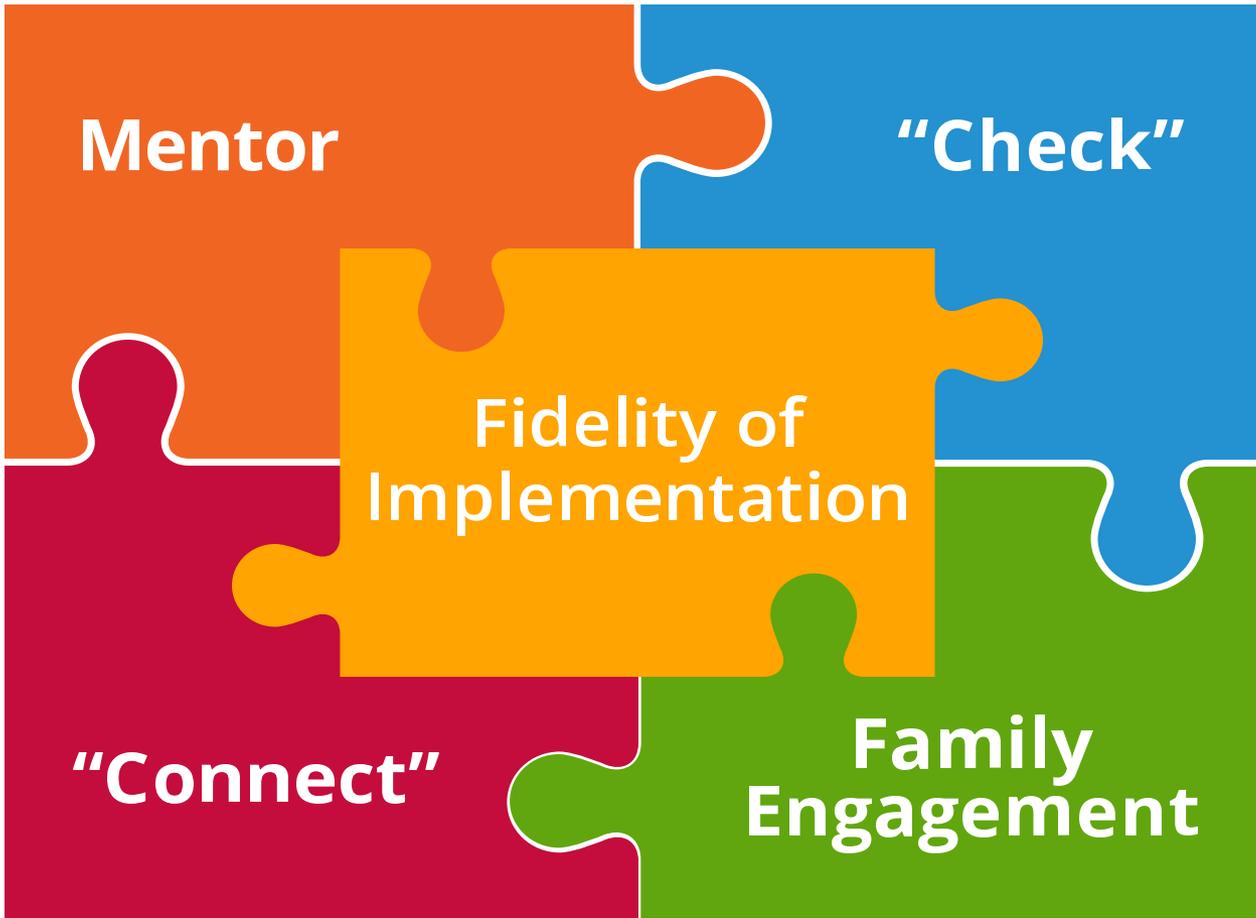
- C&C is the only dropout prevention intervention to show positive effects for staying in school



Fit With Existing Initiatives



Check & Connect Core Components



Online Training and Support Modules

- Online Training (fee)
 - Self-Paced Online Preparation & Implementation Training
- Online Support Modules (no cost)
 - How do I use the Mentor Practice Profile?
 - How do I use "check" data?
 - What does the weekly "Connect" meeting look and sound like?
 - How do I effectively collaborate with my students' families?



C&C Online Mentoring Guide

Three Focus Areas

- Creative Relationship Building
- Structured Conversations
- Interactive Interventions



The image shows the cover of a document titled "CHECK & CONNECT ONLINE MENTORING GUIDE". At the top, there is a logo for "CHECK & CONNECT" which consists of a stylized blue and yellow diamond shape with a blue circle in the center. To the right of the logo, the text "CHECK & CONNECT" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller font, it says "INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY INTEGRATION | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA". A dark blue horizontal bar below the header contains the text "STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INTERVENTION" in white. The main title "Online Mentoring Guide" is centered in a large, bold, blue font. Below the title is a paragraph of text: "As schools have shifted to remote learning, maintaining connections to students has been challenging. Check & Connect recognizes that relationships are paramount and that students need the mentor's support now more than ever. This resource provides mentors with strategies for fostering online relationships, planning conversations around school, and facilitating online interventions." Below this paragraph is the section "THREE FOCUS AREAS". Under this section are three items, each with an icon and a description: 1. "Creative Relationship Building" with an icon of two people and a lightning bolt, described as "Ideas on how to build and strengthen relationships creatively in an online world." 2. "Structured Conversations" with an icon of a speech bubble and a list, described as "A framework for your virtual 'connect' sessions with students and talking points to guide conversations with families." 3. "Interactive Interventions" with an icon of a briefcase with a gear, described as "Tools and strategies that can be implemented in any setting." In the bottom right corner of the document cover, there is a small blue circle with the number "1" inside.

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STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INTERVENTION

Online Mentoring Guide

As schools have shifted to remote learning, maintaining connections to students has been challenging. Check & Connect recognizes that relationships are paramount and that students need the mentor's support now more than ever. This resource provides mentors with strategies for fostering online relationships, planning conversations around school, and facilitating online interventions.

THREE FOCUS AREAS

Creative Relationship Building
Ideas on how to build and strengthen relationships creatively in an online world.

Structured Conversations
A framework for your virtual "connect" sessions with students and talking points to guide conversations with families.

Interactive Interventions
Tools and strategies that can be implemented in any setting.

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Structured Conversations - Students



Structured Conversations

Elementary School

- **Start with a virtual temperature check**
Incorporate a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) practice, such as a temperature check, and ask student to share how they are feeling by selecting one of the four colors in the [Zones of Regulation](#).
- **Gather data**
Ask student to give a thumbs up, sideways, or down related to the following questions:
 - How has school been for you?
 - Are you getting the help you need at home?
 - How are things going with your teacher?
- **Provide feedback**
Ask student to "Share more" or "Tell me more" about why they gave "x" thumbs-up and gave "y" thumbs down. Find something to celebrate with the student based on what they shared.
- **Promote School Success**
Say to student: I want you to feel like you can be successful in school. Even though it's online, it is important that you are learning and enjoying school. Prompt with questions, if needed:
 - If there was one thing that could make your day better, what would it be?
 - What have you enjoyed about school in the past?
- **Problem solve with student**
Engage student in problem solving around a challenge or difficult situation that came up in the "connect" session. Consider working through this [problem solving graphic organizer](#) from Check & Connect.



Structured Conversations

Middle School

- **Start with a virtual temperature check**
Incorporate a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) practice, such as a temperature check, and ask student to share how they are feeling by asking the student to share a High and Low from that week.
- **Gather data**
Ask student to respond with the emoji that best fits how things are going this week for the following:
 - Understanding your schoolwork?
 - Getting along with classmates?
 - Relationship with your teachers?
- **Provide feedback**
Ask student to "Share more" or "Tell me more" about why they chose that emoji. Find something to celebrate with the student based on what they shared.
- **Promote School Success**
Say to student: I want you to feel like you can be successful in school. Even though it's online, it is important that you are learning and enjoying school. Prompt with questions, if needed:
 - If there was one thing that could make your day better, what would it be?
 - What have you enjoyed about school in the past?
- **Problem solve with student**
Engage student in problem solving around a challenge or difficult situation that came up in the "connect" session. Consider working through this [problem solving graphic organizer](#) from Check & Connect.



Structured Conversations

High School

- **Start with a virtual temperature check**
Incorporate a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) practice, such as a temperature check, and ask student to select a [Rose, Bud, and Thorn](#) with this helpful tool from Mindful Schools.
- **Gather data**
Ask student to rate their responses on a scale of 1-5, one being very unhappy and five being very happy with the following:
 - Progress in class?
 - Completion of assignments?
 - Connection to friends?
 - Connection to teachers?
- **Provide feedback**
Ask student to "Share more" or "Tell me more" about why they chose a "1" or a "4" for that question. Find something to celebrate with the student based on what they shared.
- **Promote School Success**
Say to student: I want you to feel like you can be successful in school. Even though it's online, it is important that you are learning and enjoying school. Prompt with questions, if needed:
 - What could help move that "1" response to "2"? Or that "3" to a "4"?
 - If there was one thing that could make your day better, what would it be?
 - What have you enjoyed about school in the past?
- **Problem solve with student**
Engage student in problem solving around a challenge or difficult situation that came up in the "connect" session. Consider working through this [problem solving graphic organizer](#) from Check & Connect.



Structured Conversation - Parents

Promotes C&C Family Engagement Strategies

- Two-way communication
- Validate parent
- Honest and optimistic feedback
- Shared problem solving



Structured Conversations

Structured Family Conversation for Remote Learning

Greet
"How are you?"
"Is this an ok time to talk?"

Outline
Explain purpose for call.
"What else would you like to discuss?"

Reflect
Ask parent with an emoji or scale how it's going currently?
Validate their efforts.
"What do you need to help support learning at home?"

Share
"How do you think your child is doing in their classes?"
Highlight student success.
Be honest and be optimistic.
Discuss student's goal.

Plan
"Is there anything that might get in the way of your child completing this goal?"
Problem-solve around potential barriers.
Decide next steps and follow through.



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Interactive Interventions



Interventions Done Virtually

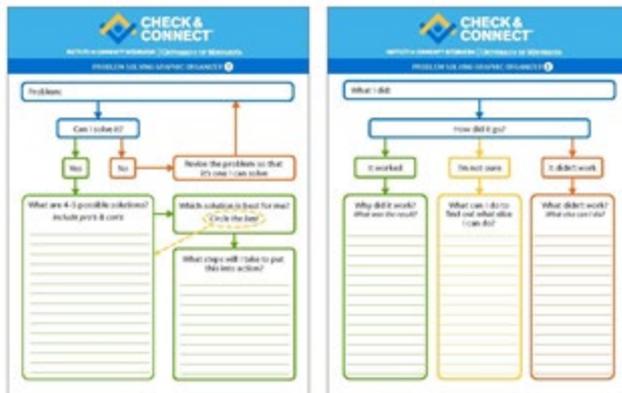
Brainstorming consequences

Use online resources (whiteboard, Padlet, etc.) to brainstorm and document consequences to behaviors. Have student create 3 columns and label the columns:

- "reasons/excuses"
- "consequences for self" and
- "consequences for others"

Problem solving graphic organizer

Check & Connect created a problem solving graphic organizer for mentors and students to use together.



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Interventions Done Virtually

Make SMART goal setting easier

The process for setting a SMART goal can be too abstract for some students. Sometimes simple, more user-friendly questions can make this process more concrete. Access the SMART Goal Setting Sheet from Check & Connect here.

Make goal setting fun!

Help students brainstorm and track goals with digital vision boards. Create a visual collage of images and quotes to make abstract goals real and personal for your student.

Long-term goal setting

Help students keep their future "real" by visualizing where they want to go and what they want to achieve. Have them plot a timeline of their past, present and future, and define their dreams with text and images.

Interactive future planning

Help your student plan for their future (and keep them motivated to stay engaged in school) by exploring their interests online. Check out TRG EDU's free, interactive resources such as Career Path, College Blueprint, and Find Your Passion as a start.

Provide families with design challenge activities

Help the family have fun together with their student. Introduce them to TGR EDU's design challenges such as Move the Ping Pong Balls, Go the Distance, or Basketball Shooter.

Seek ideas from other educators online

Learn from other educators about tips that might be helpful to support your students. Gain ideas and inspiration from We Are Teachers. If you are on Facebook, look into the group, *Online Teaching Tips for Plague-Adverse*, which provides a place to exchange and learn about brief, helpful suggestions about remote instruction.

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Interactive Interventions

Tools and Strategies for:

- Problem Solving
- Goal Setting
- Self Regulation
- Increasing Motivation
- Future Planning



Florida Check & Connect

Training and Implementation Support during Covid-19



Timeline of Shifts

- March 2020
 - Memo to implementers
 - Support call on virtual mentoring
- April 2020
 - Covid-19 resource repository
 - Initial adaptation of trainings
 - Revision of program evaluation plan
- May 2020
 - Informal needs assessment
- Summer 2020
 - Increased demand for trainings
 - Continuous revisions of trainings (lessons learned/advice from field)
- Fall 2020
 - Rolled out enhanced TA and Implementation Support plan
 - Enhanced support requested from trainers statewide



Adaptation of Trainings

- Trainings broken into smaller chunks across multiple days/sessions
- Multiple co-trainers and facilitator for technology
- Frequent breaks
- Revision of training "norms"
- Minor content revisions (time constraints)
- Pre-work/Homework
 - Padlet
- Adaptation of activities
 - Jigsaws
 - Interactive features:
 - Breakout rooms
 - Polls, Annotations, Reactions, etc.



Implementation Support

- Time constraints and stress levels higher than ever
- Need for increased supports and reduced demands/meetings
- Resource repository & new products:
 - Covid-19 Resources
 - Mentor "quick-start" guide
 - Coordinator checklist by month
 - Virtual check-in guide
 - Collaboration with UMN for online mentoring guide
 - Addition of mentor toolbox and support calls
 - Monitoring form tutorial



Preliminary look at impacts

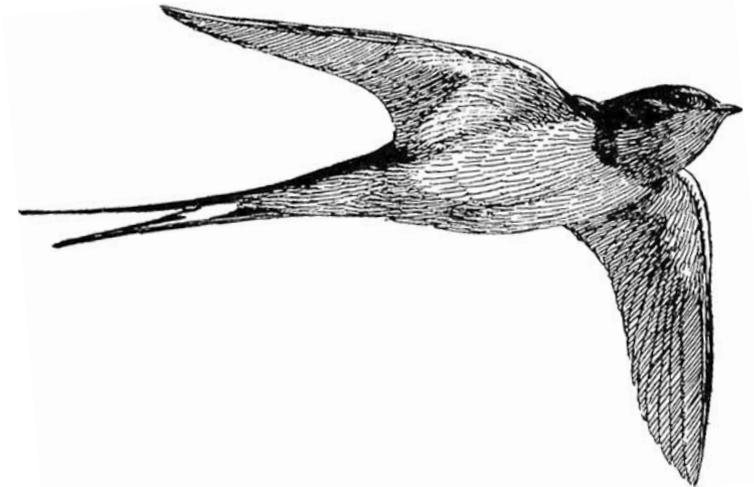
- Maintained overall student engagement
 - [Student Engagement Instrument \(SEI\)](#)
- Higher training attendance
- Increased opportunities for trainers
- 2% decrease in 3 of 4 fidelity indicators
 - Family engagement indicator increased 16.8%
- Improving student outcomes
 - Exception: course performance



Biggest lesson learned:

ALWAYS GIVE GRACE

to those you support
to yourself



Q&A

