

An evidence-based structured mentoring program...



... building trusting relationships



...tracking student data (grades, absences, behavior referrals, etc.)



...enhancing student engagement at school and with learning

Check & Connect



What people are saying-

"While Check & Connect is structured, it is also flexible in using the resources that currently exist in a school. This combination of structure and flexibility make it very user friendly"

*-Martha Essenmacher, Behavior Specialist,
Maryland State Department of Education*

"Many schools I work with acknowledge the need for a mentoring program but they feel exhausted at the suggestion of asking their teachers to do 'one more thing.' Check & Connect can help bring schools and communities-together in an effort to turn the exhaustion into action and data to validate their efforts and successes."

*-Lois M. Jones, School improvement Consultant,
Missouri State University*

"I went through so many things at the end of sophomore year and the beginning of junior year. I just fell apart. I stopped coming to school. I stopped my connection with all of my friends and family and I just isolated myself. ... Ms. Kay, my mentor with Check & Connect, was there from the beginning to the end. She really supported me....She let me know I was bright and that I could do it and that I could make it. And she always said, "Kelly, keep your chin up". That's why I pulled myself together and came back to school."

-Kelly, Minneapolis Public Schools

Check and Connect

A comprehensive student engagement intervention

A K-12 intervention model to promote student engagement at school and with learning



Visit us online for more information

Email: thomasv@starrvista.org or

Call: 313.387.6000



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
Nelson Mandela



"Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or the same way".
George Evans

Grounded in Research

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 United States as well as abroad.

Of the dropout interventions reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse, Check & Connect is the only intervention found to have strong evidence of positive effects for staying in school.

Check & Connect is ...

- A student engagement intervention
- Focused on dropout prevention
- Implemented by a trained mentor
- Individualized and data-drive
- Evidence-based (researched since 1990)
- Used as a stand-alone model or with existing initiatives (PBIS, RtI, multi-tiered system of supports, etc.)

Demonstrated Outcome

Increases in students':



- Attendance
- Persistence in school
- Credit accrual
- School completion rates

Decreases in students':



- Truancy
- Tardies
- Behavior referral
- Dropout rates

Core Components of Check & Connect

Check & Connect is a comprehensive intervention designed to improve student engagement at school and with learning for marginalized, disengaged students in grades K-12, through relationship building, problem solving and capacity building, and persistence. It has four components:

1. A mentor who works with students and families for a minimum of two years;
2. Check- regular checks, utilizing data schools already collect on students' school adjustment, behavior, and educational progress;
3. Connect - timely interventions, driven by data, to reestablish and maintain students' connection to school and learning and to enhance students' social and academic competencies; and
4. Engagement with families — mentors engage with parents and strive to foster their active participation in their child's education.