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](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

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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


– C&C is the only dropout prevention intervention to show positive effects for staying in school
Fit With Existing Initiatives

Universal 80%

Targeted 15%

Intensive 5%

CHECK & CONNECT

ICI
Check & Connect Core Components

- Mentor
- "Check"
- Fidelity of Implementation
- "Connect"
- Family Engagement
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?
Three Focus Areas

• Creative Relationship Building
• Structured Conversations
• Interactive Interventions
Creative Relationship Building

Go on a virtual scavenger hunt
Here are a few ideas. Do it as a pair or partner with other Check & Connect mentors & students.

(Re) Introduce yourself with video story
Center your video story on 3 main points about yourself that will resonate with your student(s).

Create personalized Check & Connect background for “Connect” meetings
Create together or have students take charge decorating with images representative of themselves. See example below.

Play “2 Truths & 1 Lie”
This classic game is fun whether in person or virtually! To be truly engaging, challenge each other to use a really creative lie!

Create a music playlist
Explore what’s similar & different about your musical tastes. Ask questions: Where did you first hear the song? What do you like about it? What one or two songs would you recommend I listen to?

Volunteer together online
Make a difference together and help your student see that they matter. Find opportunities in your community or online through volunteer organizations like All For Good or DoSomething.

Explore a TED Talk together
Select a talk with your student related to their interests. Discuss afterwards – What sticks with you? How could you use these ideas in your own life?

Play online games
Play games like Kahoot, Pictionary, or personalized trivia games. Games provide a great opportunity to ask questions & get to know your student deeper while having fun!

Visually inspire conversation
Create a digital “Dream” board (Padlet or Google Jamboard are possibilities). Or have the student choose a different topic for their digital board such as a Happiness board or a board of images about themselves. See example below.

Spark conversations that foster relationship building
Be thoughtful in curating a conversation with your student. Take a look at Check & Connect’s “Getting Started Relationship-Building” resource for tips and conversation starters.
Structured Conversations - Students

**Elementary School**
- Start with a virtual temperature check
  - Incorporate a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) practice, such as a temperature check, and ask students to share how they are feeling by selecting one of the four colors in the Zones of Regulation.
- **Gather data**
  - Ask students 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 students 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.
  - Ask for feedback 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.

**Middle School**
- Start with a virtual temperature check
  - Incorporate a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) practice, such as a temperature check, and ask students to share how they are feeling by asking the student to share a High and Low from that week.
- **Gather data**
  - Ask students 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 students 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.
  - Ask for feedback 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.

**High School**
- Start with a virtual temperature check
  - Incorporate a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) practice, such as a temperature check, and ask students to select a Rose, Bud, and Thorn with this helpful tool from Mindful Schools.
- **Gather data**
  - Ask students 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 students 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.
  - Ask for feedback 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
Interactive Interventions

**Brainstorming consequences**
Use online resources (whiteboard, Padlet, etc.) to brainstorm and document consequences to behaviors. Have students create 3 columns and label the columns:
- "reasons/excuses" 
- "consequences for self" 
- "consequences for others"

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

**Manage missing assignments**
Online learning adds more complexities that make it hard for students to stay on track with assignments. Make sure your students have skills and know how to:
- Use digital learning platform(s) and tools
- Organize and manage their time and work
- Simplify their work as much as possible
- Address technology needs
- Find online tutoring
- Ask for help

**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.

**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 students 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 Blueprints, and Find Your Passion as a start.

**Provide families with design challenge activities**
Help the family have fun together with their students. Introduce them to TRG EDU’s design challenges such as Move the Ping Pong Balls, Go the Distance, or Basketball Shooter.

**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.

**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.
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
FL State Personnel Development Grant

• Supports implementation of Check & Connect with:
  – 52 schools
  – 300+ mentors
  – Less intensive support provided statewide

• Our team:
  – 4 dedicated staff members
  – 51 locally certified trainers

• We provide:
  – Training
  – Technical assistance and implementation support
  – Statewide coordination / leadership
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