



# Check & Connect

A Comprehensive Student Engagement Intervention

## Join us

**October 15–16, 2009  
in Minneapolis, MN**

### Why Check & Connect

This training on the Check & Connect model will provide you with practical tools for helping students reconnect to school and get on track to graduation. Of 22 dropout prevention programs rated by the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse, Check & Connect was the only program found to have strong evidence of positive effects for staying in school. Check & Connect is data-driven and grounded in research on resiliency and home-school collaboration.

Participants in this training will learn —

- Strategies for engaging students in school
- How dropout risk factors may be altered
- The difference between basic and intensive dropout prevention interventions
- The essential skills of an effective Check & Connect monitor
- How the Check & Connect monitor works with students, families, and school staff
- Resources for supporting students with academic, social, and behavioral issues

### Who should attend

The training is designed for school administrators, teachers, researchers, community professionals, and others interested in helping students engage in school and stay on track to graduate.

### Check & Connect manual

Participants will also receive a copy of the Check & Connect implementation manual, which covers how to engage both elementary and secondary students in school. The manual includes the following sections —

- What is Check & Connect?
- Determine indicators of disengagement
- Identifying students at risk for dropping out
- "Check" procedures and monitoring sheet
- "Connect" procedures and monitoring sheet
- The role of the monitor/mentor and coordinator
- Implementation issues and considerations
- Indicators of success



### Please note

While this training provides a solid introduction to Check & Connect, it is not meant to provide the intensive training necessary to implement Check & Connect in local districts. For an additional fee, an intensive on-site workshop provides a customized step-by-step training to prepare local staff to implement each component of Check & Connect.

**Institute on Community Integration**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

## Agenda for day one • 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



### Important reminders

- Transportation and lodging are not provided.
- It is essential for training participants to be present from start to finish on each day of the training. Please plan your travel accordingly.
- Dress is casual.

### Register early

Space is limited to 50 participants.

Register early to ensure your spot at the training!

8:30 a.m. **Registration and continental breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Welcome and introductions**

9:30 a.m. **A review of the current context and status of dropout.** Presenters will discuss the reasons you drop out of school, the impact of dropout on local and national graduation levels, and resiliency and student engagement as key components in preventing dropout and increasing school completion.

11:00 a.m. **Overview of Check & Connect.** Presenters will provide an overview of the history, development, implementation, and outcomes of Check & Connect. Of the 22 dropout prevention programs rated by the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse, Check & Connect was the only program found to have strong evidence of positive effects for staying in school.

11:30 p.m. **Implementation of Check & Connect.** Presenters will review the components of the intervention, discuss the difference between status and alterable variables and the importance of utilizing a resiliency and mentoring approach, and describe the role of the Check & Connect coordinator and the Check & Connect mentor.

12:00 p.m. **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **Implementation of Check & Connect (continued).** Presenters will describe what to look for when hiring/assigning Check & Connect coordinators and monitors, discuss how to identify student caseloads, describe ways to build support for Check & Connect among staff, students, and families, discuss ways to build relationships with students, teachers, and other staff, and review implementation considerations.

2:15 p.m. **Break**

2:30 p.m. **Working with students.** Presenters will share strategies for working with student participants, including when, where, and how often to meet with them. Examples of how to build relationships with students, how to problem-solve, and how to determine whether to use a contract with a student will be provided.

## Agenda for day two • 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

8:45 a.m. **Continental breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Day one review and questions**

9:30 a.m. **Case management.** Presenters will review pertinent Check & Connect forms, including the intake form, personal education plan, monitor/mentor-student survey, and referral forms.

11:00 a.m. **Working with families and schools.** Presenters will discuss assumptions about working effectively with parents and families, share ways to engage parents who may not want their child to participate in the program, describe strategies for effectively communicating with parents, and discuss the importance of parent engagement. Presenters will discuss Check & Connect as a strength-based program and will share strategies for engaging school staff in the program.

12:00 p.m. **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **Thinking ahead to evaluation.** Presenters will discuss the importance of evaluation in program improvement and describe ways to gather evidence of effectiveness.

2:00 p.m. **Conclusion.** Participants are welcome to stay until 3:30 to network and interact with trainers one-to-one.

## Location

McNamara Alumni Center, University Gateway  
University of Minnesota  
200 Oak Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Directions, maps, and parking information:  
[www.alumnicenter.umn.edu](http://www.alumnicenter.umn.edu)

## Cost

Early Bird Registration: **\$545** per participant  
After September 1, 2009: **\$595** per participant

Registration fee includes a copy of the Check & Connect implementation manual, continental breakfast, and lunch for both days of the training. Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements. Cost of travel, lodging, and additional meals are not covered by the registration fee.

**The registration deadline is September 30, 2009.**

## Lodging

Lodging is \$85/night plus tax at the Days Hotel near the McNamara Alumni Center. Call 612-623-9303 and ask for the Check & Connect room block.

**Room reservation deadline is September 15, 2009.**

## Special needs

Please indicate any special needs on your registration form, including dietary restrictions. Training materials are available in alternate formats upon request.

## Registration

Send registration form with check or purchase order (payable to the University of Minnesota) to the address provided below.

**The registration deadline is September 30, 2009.**

## For more information

E-mail: [checkandconnect@umn.edu](mailto:checkandconnect@umn.edu)

Web: [ici.umn.edu/checkandconnect](http://ici.umn.edu/checkandconnect)

Phone: 866-434-0010 (toll free)



# Registration form

**Registration deadline:  
September 30, 2009**

Name and title

Organization

Mailing address

City

State

Zip

E-mail

Phone

Fax

**Please indicate your professional field (*check all that apply*):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special education        | <input type="checkbox"/> Higher education             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General education        | <input type="checkbox"/> Community-based organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian education         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transition services          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): |   |

**Please indicate special needs, including dietary restrictions:**

**No, I do not want my name included in the participant list.**

### Please mail or fax to:

Check & Connect Training  
University of Minnesota  
Institute on Community Integration  
6 Pattee Hall  
150 Pillsbury Drive SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Fax: 612-624-9344