

Implementing Check and Connect in a High School Setting: Reavis High School's Model

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Reavis High School: Home of the Rams

Single school district

Ethnically & linguistically diverse
suburban high school located
southwest of Chicago in Burbank, IL,
Population 28,000

School Enrollment: 1 804

12% Special Education

5% ELL



Reavis High School

51% Low Income

Bilingual Arabic, Polish, and Spanish Programs

89% Graduation Rate

3.5% mobility rate

Hispanic 25% White 65%, Black 2%, Asian-Pacific 2%, Other 6%

Teachers (100+): 88% Masters Degree, 15 NBCT, 13.2 average year's experience

1:1 Chromebooks

Triple A: Athletics, Activities, Athletics 40%+ involved

“RAM FAM” Once A Ram, Always A Ram

What is our district's philosophy?

- Student centered environment
- Every student has a story
- End in mind
 - graduate
 - post-secondary plan
 - be present, be involved
- *Better Together*

Non-negotiables

Right people on the bus

- Admin Support
- Faculty “Our Kids”
- Behavioral Health Team

Identify the targets

- Attendance
- Referrals

Non-negotiables

Take the temperature of the building

- What was our faculty's understanding of interventions?
- Do we have interest in mentors?

Baby stepping

- Tier II team LEADS

Student Goals

- Address disengaged students including those lacking motivation
- Set improvement goals in the areas
 - Attendance
 - Behavior
 - Grades
- Decrease outplacements
- Decrease suspensions

The Reavis Journey

This is What We Do!

**2012-2013 Rams are Responsible Tier I;
Hallway Expectations for Adults**

**2013-2014 Formalize MTSS @ RHS-Ram
Teams**

**2014-2015 Tier I Team Created; Attendance
Matters launches; Handbook**

**2015-2016 Tier II Team & Interventions; Check
and Connect Training Year 1; SB100; Behavior
Coach**

**2016-2017 Check and Connect Professional
Training Year 2; Ram Academy**

2017-2018 BIG IDEAS; BHT; Tier III Team

Tier I

Rams are Responsible
Attendance Matters
Bulldog Solutions
RAM Teams
Elyssa's Mission
Guidance & Dean Curriculum
Acceptance for All
Parent Universities
RAM & BHT

Tier II/III Interventions

Focused Group Interventions: Anger Management, Anxiety, Social Skills
Bulldog Solutions Groups
Ram Academy
Alternative Education
Academic Resource Center
Presence Behavioral Health
Executive Functioning Group
Check and Connect

Why Check and Connect?

- Evidence based
- Helps improve graduation and overall engagement (WWCH)
- Team was researching ways to help students with poor attendance and/or failing grades
- Accommodations versus interventions
- Good fit for our staff and team

Reavis High School: Check and Connect Video

https://youtu.be/_n-KCUQoaHQ



Reavis High School Model: Trainings

- 6/2015: Check and Connect Implementation Training (Coordinators attended)
- 8/2015-12/2015: Pilot period
- 2/2016 and 9/2016: Two staff trainings on-site by University of Minnesota (due to overwhelming response)
- 9/2017: Small group trainings (new staff)
- Currently: ~69 trained staff. 47 have mentees

Introducing Check and Connect to Reavis

- Staff presentation
- Follow up information meeting
- Review of data, program, and mentor expectations
- School board presentation and follow up
- Administration meetings

Referrals for Check and Connect

- Deans and Guidance Counselors
- MTSS meetings
- Transfer students/transitioning from alternative school

Check and Connect Guidelines

- Staff assigned 1 student (1:1 ratio)
- Meeting times and locations
- Electronic Data (Power School)
- Google data tracking form
- Monthly budget/supplies

Check and Connect Coordinators

- Two Coordinators

(Psychologist and Teacher)

- Each assigned mentors to oversee
- Maintain monthly budget
- Obtain parent permission
- Pair students and mentors
- Meetings and individual consultation

Check and Connect Coordinator Checklist

1. Obtain parent permission: Written preferred but will accept verbal.
2. Give mentor binder and go over procedures including monthly budget.
3. Go over monitoring form and any questions with mentor (should be turned in monthly).
4. Check access to Power School and quick tutorial if needed.
5. Add mentor's name into Power School.
6. Have mentor meet with student to review program or coordinator meets with student depending on familiarity.
7. Consult with mentor on contacting teachers to introduce self (usually an email) and to make contact with home in the first few weeks.
8. Check that schedule and meeting time is okay for mentor/mentee. Problem solve if necessary.
9. Make sure google document is updated with necessary information.

TOP 10 Ways to Make Check and Connect Work

1. Matching students and staff
2. Find time in the day for mentors/mentees to meet
3. Data without tears
4. 1:1 ratio
5. Securing funds/grants
6. Utilize support staff/administration
7. Form a committee
8. Look for volunteers versus assigning staff
9. T-shirts and Check and Connect gear
10. Organize little gifts

Challenges

- Tracking the data
- Finding meeting times and/or places that work for both
- Parent involvement
- Meeting the mental health needs of the students
- Frustration when students are not making growth
- Having enough mentors (especially male mentors)
- Students resistant to

Successes

- Focus on progress not perfection
 - Understanding that accomplishing smaller goals eventually leads to accomplishing bigger goals
- Overall improvement in grades and attendance
- Decrease in discipline referrals
 - Mentors involved in disciplinary decisions
- Collaboration among staff
- Individualized support
- Building trusting relationships

Questions?

Thank you for your time!

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