

Check & Connect Te Hononga

A manual for Aotearoa New Zealand | He aratohu mā Aotearoa

Brief overview





Kei roto i a koe tōu ake mana.

*Within each of us
lies the seed of potential.*

Check & Connect | Te Hononga is a two-year mentoring initiative for secondary students who are in the early stages of disengaging from school or at risk of dropping out altogether. Check & Connect originated at the University of Minnesota and has been adapted for the Aotearoa New Zealand context by the Ministry of Education. It is part of the Ministry's Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) suite of initiatives that support the wellbeing and learning of students.

The Check & Connect manual is for schools that are considering or planning to implement Check & Connect. Its major sections cover:

- the roles, relationships, and processes involved in implementing Check & Connect
- detailed guidance for mentors
- how schools can evaluate their use of Check & Connect and ensure the initiative's fidelity.

The 'Check' in Check & Connect refers to the process where mentors systematically monitor attendance, achievement, and pastoral data to support problem solving. 'Connect' refers to the way mentors provide personalised, timely responses to help students solve problems, build skills, and enhance their competence.

In 2016, the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER) evaluated the outcomes from Check & Connect trials. Participating students and their mentors believed positive gains had been made and that the student-mentor relationship had a strong positive impact on how students felt about school and on their motivation and success.

[I liked] being able to open up to someone who I trust. Being able to have someone understand what I go through with teachers. ...

I think the things that worked best for me were seeing someone that I could talk to every week and her checking on my progress and helping me through things I found hard. And she motivated me all the time.

Implementation overview

