



# Florida's SPDG: Measuring Student Engagement

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Florida's State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), *Graduation for All* (2017-2022), provides technical assistance and professional development to targeted school districts across Florida. Participating Middle and High Schools receive information, materials and coaching necessary to implement Check & Connect and/or the Strategic Instructional Model (SIM™). Check & Connect is a comprehensive student engagement and dropout prevention program for students at risk of dropping out of school. The four core components of Check & Connect include:

- **Mentor:** who works with students and families for a minimum of two years
- **Check:** systematic monitoring of data schools already collect on students' behavior, attendance and course performance
- **Connect:** timely interventions driven by data, to reestablish and maintain students' connection to school and learning and to enhance students' social and academic competencies
- **Family Engagement:** mentors engage with parents and other caretakers to foster their active participation in their child's education

## Innovation

To measure impact of the FL SPDG's Check & Connect project, the Student Engagement Instrument (SEI; Appelton, Christenson, Kim & Reschly, 2006) is completed by participating students. The SEI is an innovative tool due to its measurement of cognitive and affective student engagement across six validated domains (teacher student relationships, peer support at school, family support for learning, control and relevance of school work, future aspirations and goals, and intrinsic motivation). Cognitive engagement (i.e. value/relevance, self-regulation and goal setting) and affective engagement (i.e. sense of belonging and identification with school) likely precede academic and behavioral engagement, all of which support the short and long term outcomes Check & Connect aims to achieve. In addition to using the SEI to measure project impact, Mentors, Coordinators and District Implementation Teams have access to summarized student level SEI data in order to target specific domains of engagement.

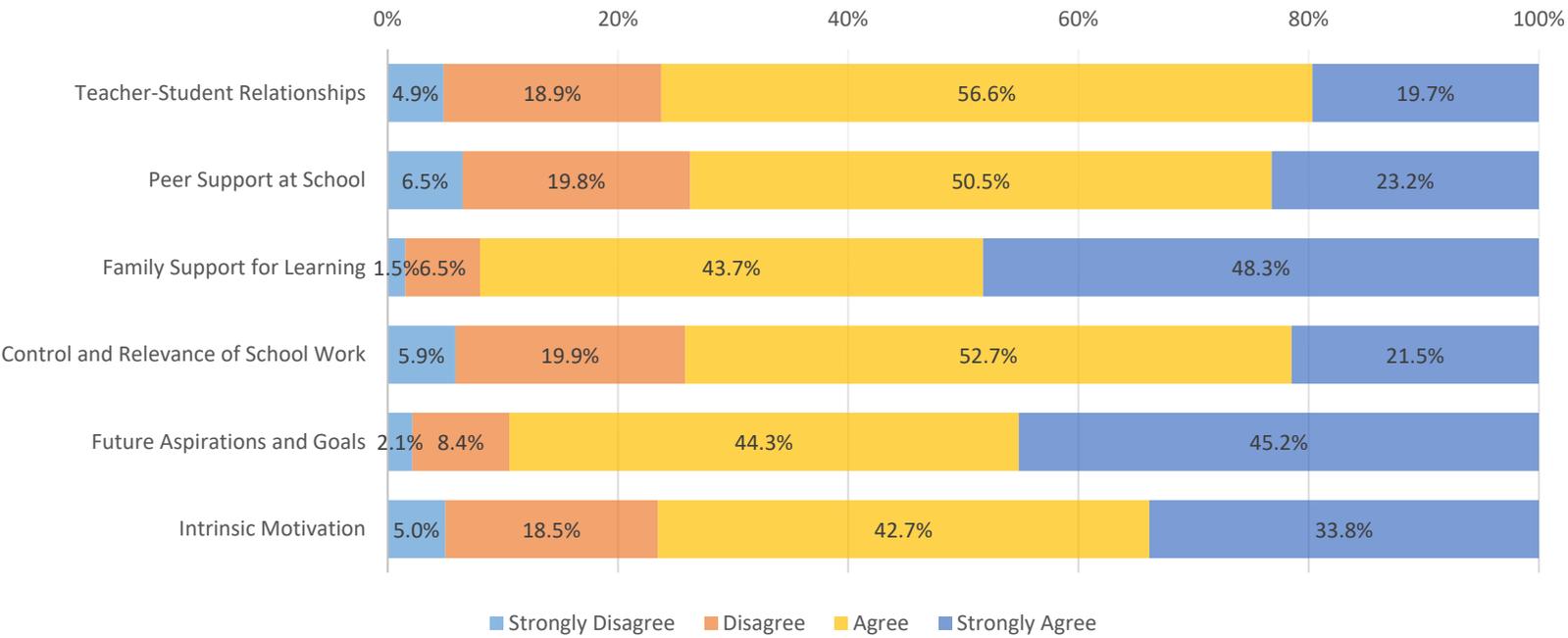
## Method & Participants

131 participating secondary students completed the SEI during the 2019-2020 school year. An initial SEI is administered when a student begins receiving Check & Connect as a baseline to provide the mentor with a deeper understanding of domains of engagement to target. The SEI is then repeated once annually to assess progress and outcomes of implementation. Data reported in this poster represent initial/baseline data collected only.

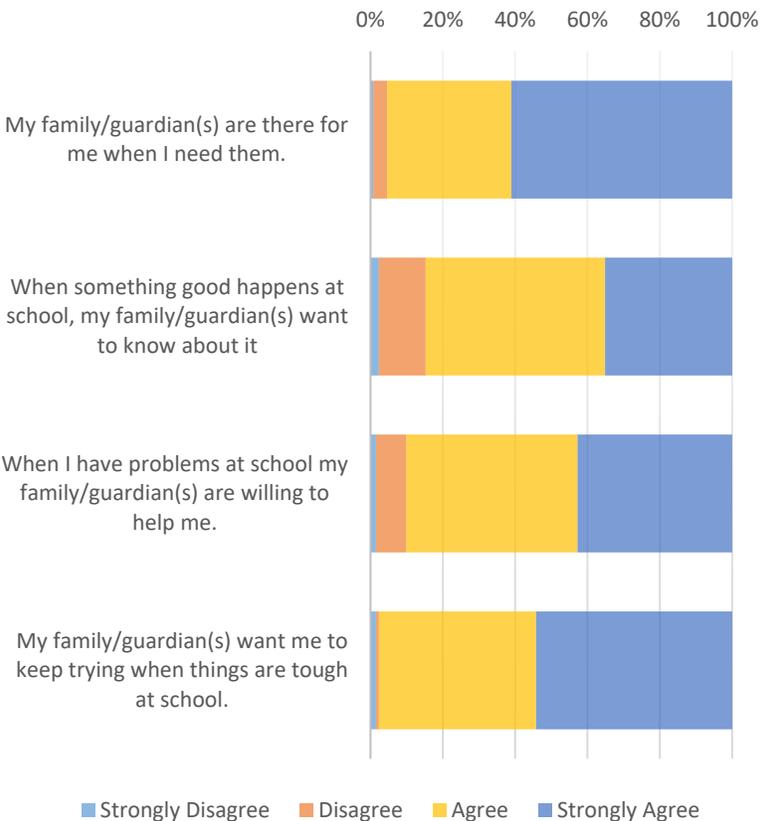
## Findings & Conclusions

Domains with the highest percentage of agreement with indicators of engagement (endorsed *agree* or *strongly agree*) included Family Support for Learning (92%), Future Aspirations and Goals (89.5%), and Intrinsic Motivation (76.5%). Domains of engagement that were reported with the lowest level of agreeance included Peer Support at School (73.7%), Control and Relevance of School Work (74.2%), and Teacher-Student Relationships (76.3%). These findings illustrate that these students were more likely to feel they are supported at home or from within themselves, yet may feel less supported at school. See graphs on the second page for summary data as well as item level responses within the highest and lowest domains.

# CHECK & CONNECT STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INSTRUMENT PERCENTAGE OF RESPONSES BY DOMAIN



## FAMILY SUPPORT FOR LEARNING



## PEER SUPPORT AT SCHOOL

