Elementary On-Track

the To&Through project
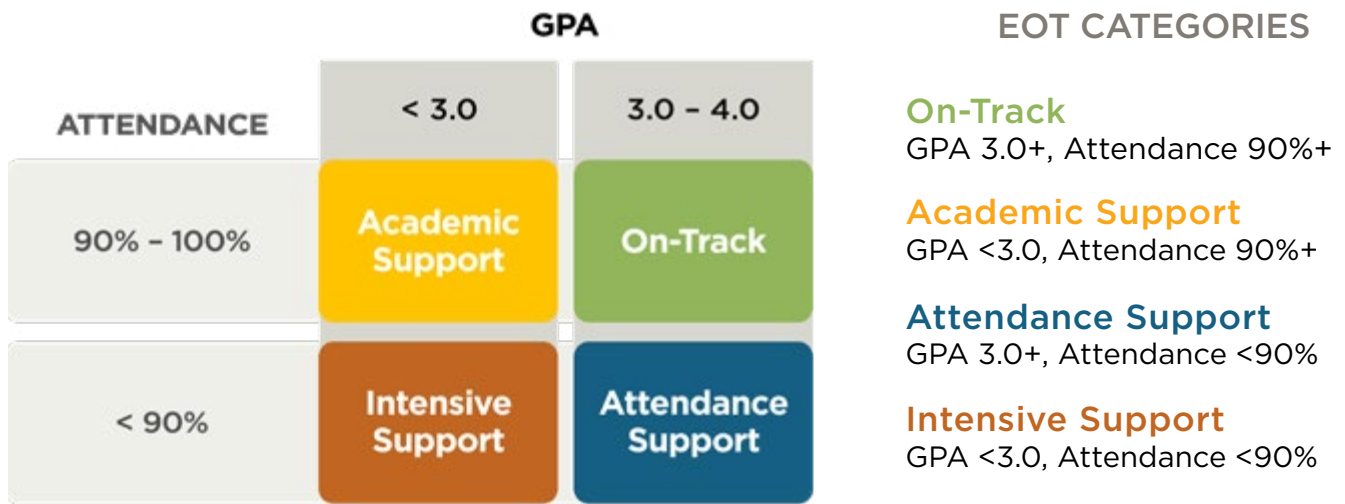
By helping students improve their GPAs and attendance, elementary and middle school educators can have a powerful impact on students' long-term success. This guide introduces a Condensed Elementary On-Track (EOT) metric to help elementary and middle school educators **analyze** school-wide trends, **diagnose** adult-centered problems of practice, **match** 3rd- through 8th-grade students with interventions, and **monitor** progress over time. The framework and findings below are meant for educators: we do *not* recommend use with students.

This guide is based on the research report *Elementary On-Track: Elementary School Students' Grades, Attendance, and Future Outcomes,* available at https://toandthrough.uchicago.edu/research

CONDENSED ELEMENTARY ON-TRACK (EOT) CATEGORIES

EOT CATEGORIES

On-Track
GPA 3.0+, Attendance 90%+

Academic Support
GPA <3.0, Attendance 90%+

Attendance Support
GPA 3.0+, Attendance <90%

Intensive Support
GPA <3.0, Attendance <90%

On-Track students **graduated high school** at over twice the rate of students in the **Intensive Support** category

92% **On-Track**

40% **Intensive Support**

Students in the **On-Track** category immediately **enrolled in college** at a rate of

72%

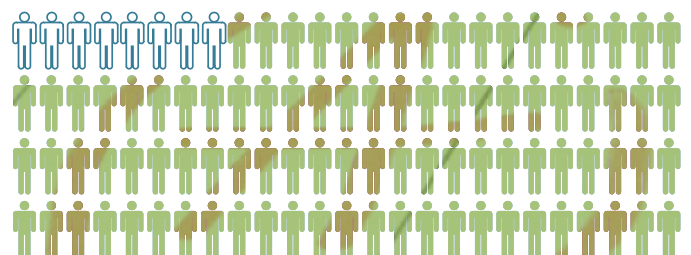Students in the **Inensive Support** category immediately **enrolled in college** at a rate of

16%

On-Track students **immediately enrolled in college** at nearly

2X

the rate of students in the **Academic Support** category

Among students with a **3.0+ GPA**, almost all had above **90% attendance**

(Data for 3rd-8th grade students from school year 2010-11 for whom grades and attendance data were available.)

KEY QUESTIONS FOR ACTION

ON-TRACK

The majority of students in the On-Track category graduated high school with a 3.0+ GPA and immediately enrolled in a four-year college.

● **How can we engage, challenge, and support students in the On-Track category so that they continue to be successful?**

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Students in the Academic Support category came to school regularly yet were still not earning a 3.0 GPA. Fewer than one in five graduated high school with a 3.0+ GPA and only one in five enrolled in four-year colleges.

● **How do school culture, instruction, assessments, and/or curriculum play a role in preventing students in the Academic Support category from earning high grades?**

ATTENDANCE SUPPORT

Students who were in the Attendance Support category graduated high school and enrolled in college at rates lower than those who were on-track.

● **How can we better support students in the Attendance Support category to regularly attend school?**

INTENSIVE SUPPORT

Only two in five students in the Intensive Support category graduated high school and fewer than one in five enrolled in college.

● **How can we connect students in the Intensive Support category with additional in-school and out-of-school resources to address the root causes of their struggles?**

TOOLS TO SUPPORT THIS WORK AT YOUR SCHOOL

The To&Through Elementary Schools Milestones Tool

The To&Through Elementary Schools Milestones Tool allows elementary school educators to see, at a school level, how the academic achievement of students in their building plays a crucial role in future academic performance by tracking outcomes for their middle grades students, from Freshman OnTrack through college enrollment. The tool is meant to spark high-level, school-wide conversations about adult practice. Available at **toandthrough.uchicago.edu/tool/cps/elem**
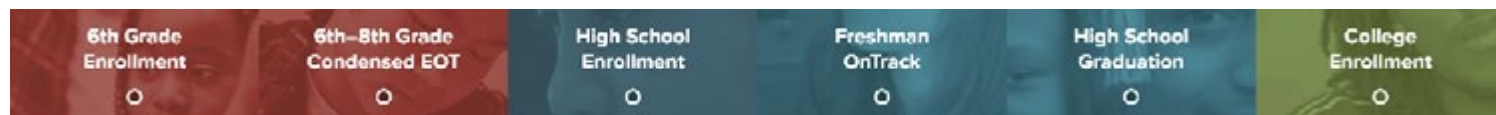
The To&Through Grades Monitoring Tool

The To&Through Grades Monitoring Tool is a Google Sheets tool intended to help practitioners analyze their school- and student-level data using Condensed EOT categories, and match students with interventions. Download data from Dashboard and upload directly to the To&Through Grades Monitoring Tool to automatically generate school-level charts and student-level tables. Available at **bit.ly/GradesTool**

Tools & research were created in collaboration with the To&Through Middle Grades Network. Visit **http://toandthrough.uchicago.edu/middle-grades-network-improvement-community**