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/elementary-on-track

**CONDENSED ELEMENTARY ON-TRACK (EOT) CATEGORIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>ATTENDANCE</th>
<th>EOT CATEGORIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 3.0</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>On-Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 3.0</td>
<td>&lt; 90%</td>
<td>Academic Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 - 4.0</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>On-Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 - 4.0</td>
<td>&lt; 90%</td>
<td>Intensive Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 - 4.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Attendance Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Students in the On-Track category **immediately enrolled in college** at a rate of 72%.

Students in the Intensive Support category **immediately enrolled in college** at a rate of 16%.

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](http://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](http://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](http://toandthrough.uchicago.edu/middle-grades-network-improvement-community)