



## Engaging Students in On-Track Conversations

# Ideas for Engaging Students to Stay On Track

---

A menu of engagement activities aligned with the school calendar to support timely and relevant student engagement in On-Track efforts.

## Ideas for Engaging Students to Stay On Track

### Summer Prior to Entering Ninth Grade

Begin exposing incoming freshmen to the concept of On Track through transition activities. Use current students to deliver this information whenever possible! Possible activities include:

- Pre-Orientation/High School Investigation Day
- Freshman Connection
- Department teacher phone calls and/or individual meetings
- Back-to-School Orientation in August

### Quarter 1

Get into the specifics about what freshmen must do to be considered On Track. Example activities:

- Grade-level assembly during 1st week of school, market as “On-Track pep rally”
- Classroom guidance lessons (On-Track Unit)
- Have students evaluate their first 5-week progress report. Using On-Track criteria, students evaluate whether they are On Track or off track. Can be done through any class, advisory period, or during a guidance lesson.
- Post pictures of On-Track students in lunchroom or high-traffic area
- Tie 1st quarter awards to On-Track status
- All freshman teachers should use On-Track language in their classes and relate students’ performance in their classes to being On Track or off track
- Small group meetings with off-track students, led by upperclassmen

## Ideas for Engaging Students to Stay On Track

### Quarters 2-3

Don't let the fire burn out from 1st quarter! Students will pick up on it and begin to think that it's not important anymore. Continue the On-Track talk throughout the 2nd and 3rd quarters. Example activities:

- On-Track breakfast club
- Field trips only for On-Track students
- Facilitate healthy department competition, such as a pizza party for the department with the most On-Track students
- Small group meetings for marginally off-track students, led by upperclassmen
- One-on-one meetings for severely off-track students, led by counselors, teachers, or administrators
- Grade-level meetings that center around On-Track trends for the entire grade
- Department/or advisory activities that help students to track their own data, such as attendance rate, number of D's/F's, detentions, etc.
- Gradebook checks that occur once weekly during a class (rotate which class throughout school year, so time is not taken from the same class each time)
- Pass out FAQs or myths/facts that clear up any misconceptions about being off track

## Ideas for Engaging Students to Stay On Track

### Quarter 4

During the final quarter, help each student understand what he/she must do in order to get back On Track. This is often very time-consuming because it is so highly individualized and may vary from student to student. Dividing students among the Success Team and using adult mentors can help alleviate the burden.

- Small group or one-on-one meetings with off-track students. At the end of the meeting, students should be able to articulate exactly what they need to do to get back On Track.
- It is important to communicate to students that they can ALWAYS get back On Track, no matter how off track they may currently be. It may take more work for some students, but it is always possible.
- Culminating On-Track field trip or reward that students can work toward
- Final On-Track awards given at end-of-year ceremony
- Expose students to their sophomore year On-Track “to-do” list