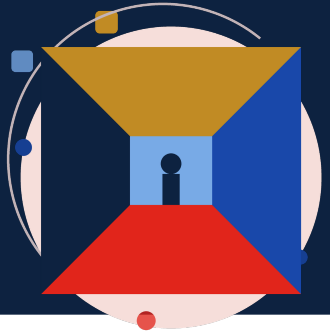
SEAT 04

THE SEAT SERIES · HANDOUT A · SEAT CARD: DO THIS MONDAY

Teachers · Grades 6-8

The Hallway Test

How can I tell whether my middle school feels worth showing up for?



THREE MOVES FOR THIS WEEK

☐ Walk two passing periods

Cost: $0

Ten minutes. Watch for eye contact between students and adults.

☐ Stand at your door

Cost: $0

Greet students by name at every transition.

☐ Name the quiet three

Cost: $0

Each advisory names three students no adult has talked with this week.

ASK THREE STUDENTS INFORMALLY

1. Is there a time or place in the building where you feel unsafe or unwanted?
2. Which adult here would notice if you were gone?
3. What would make this hallway feel better?

CLASSIFY BEFORE YOU CONSEQUENCE

Avoidance
The hallway, the bus line, one class. Change the window and the adult presence.

Withdrawal
Babysitting siblings and work. Check family logistics.

Refusal
Anxiety peaks in transitions. Plan re-entry with the counselor.

Truancy
Friends and choice. Still ask first; belonging is often the lever.

AVOID THESE MISSTEPS

- x Treating climate as a one-day training; Renwick took 18 months
- x Measuring climate only once a year
- x Assuming a high-poverty school is destined for an ineffective climate

HOW YOU WILL KNOW IT WORKS

Leading: Students with a named adult
Lagging: Avoidance-pattern absence by team

Evidence: Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 2 (Renwick, composite case); Morocco, Brigham & Aguilar (2006), via Schools Spared, Ch. 2; Gentle-Genitty (2009), dissertation, Indiana University: middle school principals' perceptions.

Take your seat: scan to join the 1,000 Seats campaign and get the free Attendance Intelligence Brief

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