SEAT 06

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

Teachers · All grades

The Hand That Stopped Going Up

Why do some students quietly disengage, and how do I win them back?



THREE MOVES FOR THIS WEEK

- [ ] **Welcome the question** — Cost: $0
  Respond to every student question with interest, even when it is off topic.

- [ ] **Find the last try** — Cost: $0
  Ask what happened the last few times the student tried to engage.

- [ ] **Fill the afternoon** — Partner
  Connect the student to one structured club, team or program.

REPAIRING THE CONNECTION

1. I noticed you have been quieter lately. I miss hearing your ideas.
2. Was there a time in class when your question did not get the response it deserved?
3. What would make it feel worth speaking up again?

CLASSIFY BEFORE YOU CONSEQUENCE

Avoidance
A classroom where questions feel unwelcome. Change the response.

Truancy
Choice shaped by a new peer group. Offer structured belonging.

Withdrawal
Afternoons alone because adults work. Connect to programs.

Refusal
Withdrawal into anxiety. Partner with counseling.

AVOID THESE MISSTEPS

- x Using strain theory to excuse harm; naming a cause is different from excusing it
- x Assuming every disengaged student seeks the same replacement
- x Waiting until a new peer group has filled the vacancy

HOW YOU WILL KNOW IT WORKS

Leading: Students re-engaged in class participation
Lagging: Absence and discipline for students added to a program

Evidence: Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 4 (Tyrell, composite case); ISRD4 cross-national study, 58,000+ adolescents in 21 countries (co-led by Gentle-Genitty); Gentle-Genitty (2009), dissertation, Indiana University: middle school principals' perceptions.