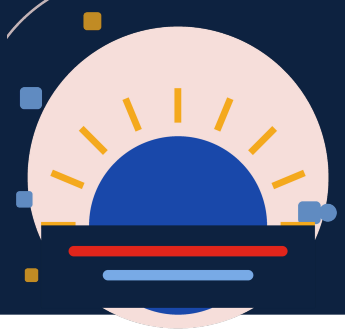
SEAT 07

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

Teachers · All grades

Re-entry Done Right

How do I welcome a student back after a long absence?



THREE MOVES FOR THIS WEEK

Prepare a welcome

Cost: $0

Have a peer and an adult ready to greet the student on the first day back.

Triage the work

Cost: $0

Choose the essential assignments; set aside the rest.

Two-week check-ins

Cost: $0

Brief daily check-ins for the first two weeks.

FIRST-DAY-BACK WORDS

1. We are so glad you are here.
2. You do not need to catch up on everything today.
3. Here is who to find if anything feels hard.
4. Let's check in tomorrow morning.

CLASSIFY BEFORE YOU CONSEQUENCE

Refusal
Plan a gradual re-entry with the counselor and a safe adult at arrival.

Withdrawal
Solve the logistics that caused the absence before the return.

Avoidance
Change the unsafe window or setting before day one.

Truancy
Welcome first; the relationship is the intervention.

AVOID THESE MISSTEPS

- x Handing a returning student every missed assignment at once
- x Public comments about how long they were gone
- x Ending support after the first good week

HOW YOU WILL KNOW IT WORKS

Leading: Returning students with a re-entry plan
Lagging: Repeat absence within 30 days of return

Evidence: Gentle-Genitty, Kearney, Heyne & O'Toole (Eds.), Education Not Cancelled, Frontiers (2026); HEDCO Institute meta-analysis, University of Oregon (2025-2026), 49 U.S. studies; King's College London meta-analysis of 61 RCTs (Sept 2026); UNICEF, Learning Interrupted: Global Snapshot of Climate-related School Disruptions in 2025.

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