SEAT 08

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

Teachers · All grades

Present but Absent

How can I spot disengagement before it shows up in the attendance data?



THREE MOVES FOR THIS WEEK

☐ Ask three students

Cost: $0

Is there a time or place in the building where you feel unsafe or unwanted?

☐ Notice the quiet

Cost: $0

When a lively student goes quiet, ask them to stay two minutes after class.

☐ Try PSSB

Cost: $0

Give the PSSB to one class or grade and compare with attendance.

TWO MINUTES AFTER CLASS

1. I have noticed you seem quieter this week.
2. Is anything at school making the day harder?
3. Is there a time or place you try to avoid?
4. I would like to help. Can we talk again tomorrow?

CLASSIFY BEFORE YOU CONSEQUENCE

Avoidance
A time or place the student dodges while still attending.

Refusal
Rising anxiety before absences begin. Connect to counseling.

Withdrawal
Home stress showing up as exhaustion in class.

Truancy
Quiet planning to leave, as with Simone. Measure the bond.

AVOID THESE MISSTEPS

- x Treating perfect attendance as proof of engagement
- x Giving PSSB and taking no action on results
- x Assuming strong grades rule out a weak bond

HOW YOU WILL KNOW IT WORKS

Leading: Students with low bond scores who received a matched support
Lagging: Later absence for that group

Evidence: Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 6 (Devon and Simone, composite cases); Gentle-Genitty, Keppens & Kearney (2025), Contemporary School Psychology 29(1), 213-220; Educator Wellness Podcast, Scanlan Center, University of Iowa, S3E3 (Dec 2024).