THE SEAT SERIES · FREE ATTENDANCE SCIENCE™ RESOURCE

SEAT 11

Practitioners · K-12

The Family Stability Conversation



How do I see the home conditions behind an absence without judging the family?

10 slides · 2 handouts · evidence from Schools Spared, Children Punished and the Attendance Science™ research base

Antoine's four schools

Denise raised three children in a rented duplex that changed twice in four years. Each move cost Antoine a bus route or a school zone. By fourth grade he had attended four elementary schools, written up as inattentive. A social worker finally connected four schools, four addresses, one exhausted mother.

Source: Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 3 (Antoine and Kayla, composite cases)



Every story in this series is a composite or a published case. Names are invented.

What practitioners are asking

How do I see the home conditions behind an absence without judging the family?

1

Instability gets read as neglect.

2

Families hide hardship for fear of judgment.

3

Screens ask about structure instead of stability.

Shared words before shared work

G

GG-FSI v1.0

36 scored items: 30 across six stability domains plus 6 Reserve items, past 30 days.

F

Family Stability Reserve

How much backup a family has when something goes wrong.

C

Critical Safety Check

Five yes/no questions kept outside the score, tied to required procedures.

The numbers behind the moment

~80%

of achievement variance explained by family stability factors in our analysis

Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 3: MSD of Warren Township case study

31% to 23.6%

Warren Township chronic absence after a family-stability-first shift

Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 3: MSD of Warren Township case study

63%

of U.S. adults could cover a $400 emergency with cash in 2024

Federal Reserve Board, Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2024 (2025)

Classify before you consequence

Withdrawal

Housing, caregiving, economic domains. Most often linked.

Avoidance

Relational and community domain. Who is a trusted adult?

Refusal

Health stability domain, including caregiver health.

Truancy

Routine domain: supervision and predictable days.

Three moves you can make this week

01

Cost: $0

Ask the mobility question

How many times has this student changed schools or homes in three years?

02

Cost: $0

Lead with strengths

Every GG-FSI item is worded as a strength; read it aloud as a conversation.

03

Cost: $0

Join the field test

Pilot GG-FSI v1.0 and share practitioner feedback.

A PRESENCE™ prompt for your building

P	R	E	S	E	N	C	E
Problem definition	Research evidence	Environmental context	**Statistical analysis**	**Equity assessment**	Network and partnership	Compliance and legal	Evidence-based recommendations

YOUR PROMPT

Cross-tab mid-year school changes per student against next-semester attendance and discipline. You will likely find a fundable stability case.



Common missteps, and how you will know it works

- ✕ Confusing family structure with family stability
- ✕ Making high-stakes decisions from a score alone
- ✕ Reading a family's silence as indifference

LEADING INDICATOR · Moves first

Families with a Family Stability Action Map

LAGGING INDICATOR · Confirms it worked

Attendance after stability supports begin

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HANDOUTS Seat Card (A) and Find Your Data worksheet (B)

KEEP GOING IN THIS SERIES

Seat 09: The Four Reasons
Seat 10: SALT: A Strengths-First Response
Seat 12: Refusal and Avoidance: Matching Care to Cause



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