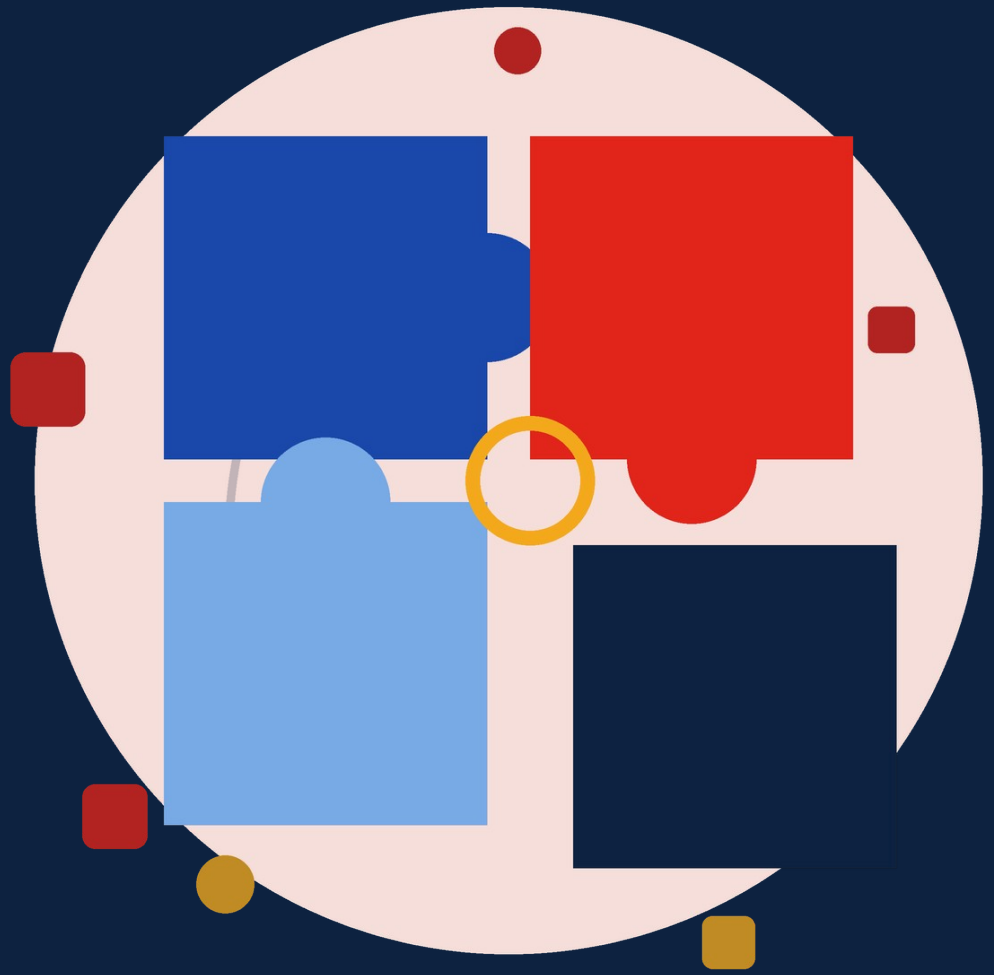
THE SEAT SERIES · FREE ATTENDANCE SCIENCE™ RESOURCE

SEAT 14

Practitioners · K-12

Owning the Seams



How do I keep a student from falling between vendors, agencies and departments?

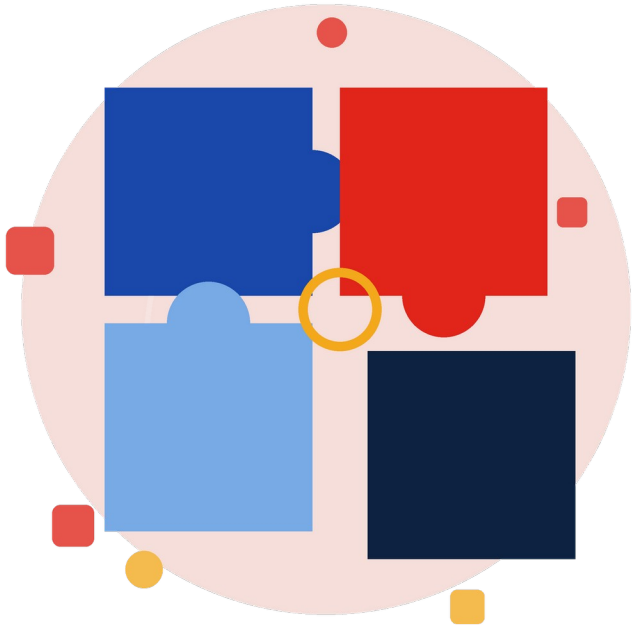
10 slides · 2 handouts · evidence from Schools Spared, Children Punished and the Attendance Science™ research base

Priya and a hundred small subcontracts

“

Pat managed tutoring, counseling, workforce, transportation and housing vendors. None talked to each other. Priya's reading vendor discharged her without telling the school; her counseling referral sat eleven weeks. By the time Pat saw all three gaps, Priya was flagged for truancy court.

Source: Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 5 (Priya, composite case)



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

What practitioners are asking

How do I keep a student from falling between vendors, agencies and departments?

1

Every partner does its piece; nobody owns the whole child.

2

Discharges happen without notice.

3

More vendors can mean more seams.

Shared words before shared work

O

Outsourcing

Transferring responsibility without a matching accountable relationship.

S

Seam

The gap between two systems where a student can fall.

A

Accountable relationship

One party responsible for seeing the student's full situation.

The numbers behind the moment

11 weeks

Priya's counseling referral waited in a queue

Schools Spared, Children Punished, Ch. 5 (Priya, composite case)

~1/3

rise in internship completion after monthly joint case reviews

Schools Spared, Ch. 5, Another Voice from the Field

6 sectors

share one client, the family: schools, health, housing, justice, community, higher ed

Gentle-Genitty, Your Presence Matters national deck (2026)

Classify before you consequence

Withdrawal

Housing, transit and benefits partners must share notice.

Refusal

Clinical waitlists need a school contact.

Avoidance

Program partners notice disengagement first.

Truancy

Courts and diversion need the full picture.

Three moves you can make this week

01

Cost: $0

List every partner

For your highest-risk students, list every vendor touching the case.

02

Cost: $0

One shared note

One case note, updated by whoever touches the student last.

03

Cost: $0

Notice clause

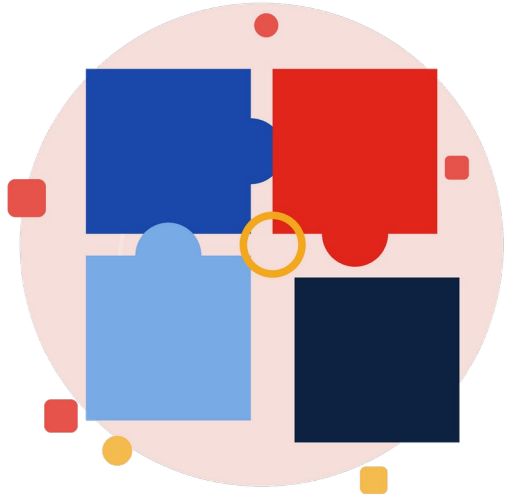
Require partners to notify the school before discharge or deprioritizing.

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

Audit data-sharing agreements: does any partner have to notify the school before discharging a student? Most districts find this clause missing.



Common missteps, and how you will know it works

- ✕ Assuming more vendors means more support
- ✕ Signing agreements without a notification clause
- ✕ Treating internal meetings as cross-agency coordination

LEADING INDICATOR · Moves first

Cases with a named seam owner

LAGGING INDICATOR · Confirms it worked

Discharges with prior notice

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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 11: The Family Stability Conversation

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