



DEFUSING ANGER & AGGRESSION

Safe Strategies for Secondary School Teachers

MODULE 1: MANAGING OFF-TASK BEHAVIOR

Clearly there are no easy answers or quick fixes to the problems facing our schools today. One small part of the solution lies in how staff manages students' problem behavior. Such behavior can be defused or escalated, managed safely or unsafely. This program addresses this small part of these problems by offering secondary school educators:

- Video vignettes showing a variety of problem behaviors from low level to serious confrontation. These demonstrate that a teacher's response can either defuse or escalate problem behavior.
- Safe strategies for addressing problem behavior early and effectively in order to prevent it from escalating and get students back on track. This strategy is called **defusion**.

Now let's look at the first of vignette that illustrates how a teacher can respond to a variety of problem behaviors.

Here's what needs to happen. First, the teacher needs to keep the class on task. Second, she needs to get Jason on task, too. Watch the steps the teacher uses to accomplish this:

- Acknowledge students who are on-task
- Take Jason aside
- Redirect Jason's group
- Redirect Jason
- Stay with direction
- Acknowledge Jason's cooperation
- Continue to acknowledge other on-task students



In summary, the teacher avoids responding directly to the off-task behavior and provides a very clear focus for on-task behavior to the class and to Jason.

Note: In this scene Jason gets back to work. If he had refused to do so, the teacher would follow through with a warning or negative consequence.