POSITIVE STUDENT INCENTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Revised August 1, 2012

“Our greatest contribution is to be sure there is a teacher in every classroom who cares that every student, every day, learns and grows and feels like a real human being.”

Donald O. Clifton

Section Synopsis:
This section provides a list of some of the student incentive programs that promote positive student behavior. Also, it identifies programs that promote recognition for student success and good citizenship.
Never Take Good Behavior for Granted

Educators cannot underestimate the power of positive recognition. Likewise, educators cannot set high behavioral and academic standards and expect all students to achieve simply because the standards are in place. Educators can and should provide some motivation for achievement in both behavior and academics and not take good behavior for granted. Educators must recognize students for appropriate behavior. The following suggestions outline practical suggestions that a school can implement to recognize and encourage students’ appropriate behaviors and quality academics. Develop a motto.

- Perfect attendance incentives.
- Whole-school daily attendance recognition.
- A high school motivator for grades, attendance, and reduction of tardiness.
- Motivators for high-stakes assessment.
- Weekly honor roll.
- Mystery motivators.
- Student of the Week.
- Good citizen award/citizenship grade.
- Class of the Month.
- Bus behavior recognition.
- Quarterly awards assemblies.
- Whole-school social skills activities.
- School newsletter.
- Generate positive public relations.

Involving Parents

Schools must find avenues to help parents become involved in the educational process of their children. Planning special events or days in which parents are encouraged to join their children at school opens the door for positive working relationships.

- Parent Visitation Day.
- Parent Advisory Council.
- Parent Support Group.

Educators cannot underestimate the power of positive recognition. Research indicates that schools focus on punitive measures too often, and not positive ones.

In order to implement these, students, parents, and staff should receive a copy of the criteria to receive the different types of rewards and recognition. Remember – not all criteria needs to be competitive.

- Developing a school motto provides a sense of identity. The motto should be emphasized through curriculum and activities.
- Perfect attendance incentives should be short-term and long-term. Students can be recognized monthly, quarterly, and/or yearly and schools recognize “whole school” day attendance (100% school-wide attendance).
- High school motivator for grades, attendance, and reduction of tardies such as final exam exemptions.
- Motivators for high-stakes assessment include college day and scholarship drawings.
- Weekly honor roll provides immediate feedback. Monthly recognition can be an additional motivation.
- Academic honor roll can include weekly recognition (grades above a B, all work completed, only excused absences, etc.).
- Student of the week can be nominated by a teacher and result in prizes and recognition.
• **Good citizen award** can be a motivator for at-risk students who place little value on behavior and/or grades in Social-Skills classes.
• **Class of the month** criteria is used to reinforce cohesive group behavior.
• **Bus behavior** can be improved through daily, quarterly, and yearly incentive programs.
• **Involve parents** through parent visitation day, parent advisory councils, and parent support groups.

**District Programs for Character Development**

• Capturing Kids’ Hearts
• Character Connections and School Board Recognitions
• Star Athlete