

Attendance Incentives

Ideas for Incentives

Teachers can offer:

- Positive comments to children
- Positive notes home to parents that appreciate their efforts to get their children to school on time
- Extra time at the computer, PE, or recess
- Free homework pass
- First-in-line privileges for lunch or dismissal
- Pencils, pens, stickers, posters, book covers, book marks, etc.
- Team certificates for the best record or most improved record
- Name on the "Attendance Wall" in the classroom
- Chance to act as teacher's assistant

Administration, PTAs and Student Councils can provide:

- Recognition during morning announcements
- Certificate/award at student assembly
- Breakfast/lunch with the principal, superintendent, school board president, mayor, or local celebrity
- School supplies (pencil with logo, or flash drives)
- Food coupons redeemable in school cafeteria
- Smoothie party for class with best attendance
- "School money" for the school store
- Choice of donated products (movie, tickets, gift certificate)
- Traveling trophy for grade-level homeroom with best monthly attendance
- Attendance T-shirts, hats, buttons
- Age-appropriate rewards for most improved attendance
- Parking space near building for student or teacher whose class has most improved attendance

Good attendance helps kids succeed in school and bolster their self-esteem. Improving attendance requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond sanctions and includes incentives.

Here are some steps schools are taking:

When students at a Michigan elementary school achieve perfect attendance for a month, they become a STAR (Studious, Thoughtful Accountable and Respectful) student. They earn a gold T-shirt saying "I am a STAR student." Their picture is displayed on the television in the school lobby.

One California elementary school awards the class with the best attendance an extra 15 minute recess on Fridays supervised by the principal. The students enjoy the attention from their principal and the teacher gets an extra-long lunch break.

An Oklahoma elementary school issues "school dollars" to students with good and improved attendance. Students can use the dollars at the school store to buy presents for family.

At a Chicago high school, students with good and improved attendance earn special access to the school's designated VIP lounge.

In, Massachusetts, high school students who met attendance goals received free tickets to the homecoming game, simultaneously fostering strong school spirit and a culture of attendance.

Attendance Works is a national and state initiative working to improve the policy and practice around attendance. For more information go to www.attendancework.org.



**Attendance
Works**

Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence