

## HOW TO...

# Be Creative with Attendance Incentives for K-5

### THIS SHOWS HOW TO:

2.2.1

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1.1: Create positive school climate.     | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.1: Support "Success Mentors."   | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.1: Communicate with families.         | <input type="checkbox"/> 4.1: Host the weekly Student Success Summit. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1.2: Implement a tiered attendance plan. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2.2: Offer incentives. | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.2: Partner with community.            | <input type="checkbox"/> 4.2: Use attendance data.                    |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.3: Connect to Task Force Initiatives. |   |

### THE BASICS

We hear a lot that improving attendance in elementary schools means **engaging parents** especially. So schools are trying activities that bring students and parents together (see below.)

**Teachers** are also made part of the effort:

Teachers post 100% attendance for the month placards outside their doors so everyone can see when they walk by, and can say great job.

A bulletin board features classes with 100% attendance each month.

Most important is **reaching students** and giving them a real connection to school. One school holds awards ceremonies for improved attendance and gives out pins which students can wear to school. Recently, a student who was chronically absent last year (31 absences), received an award. The next day, the girl came to school wearing the pin and told her success mentor, "I'm wearing my pin and I want to get to school early every day and I told my mother to bring me on time every day." What made the difference for this student? The school asked her to be a breakfast helper for the cross-age tutoring program they have in place for 5<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> graders. The student is so happy to have this special role and she comes to school on time, every morning, to do her job and get ready to help the younger students.

Building an incentives plan that work for your students, and that your school can maintain is the goal. Keep in mind, for the short term, there are some incentives available through the Task Force:

- Certificates from the Mayor.
- VIP tours of City Hall.
- Good news postcards to be mailed home to celebrate improved attendance or other good news.
- Letter from the Mayor congratulating your school for participating in the *Every Student, Every Day* Campaign. (*This can be used by the school to solicit support from local businesses and community leaders*).
- SkyRide Tickets.

### HERE'S WHAT HAS BEEN TRIED

Family movie nights, with popcorn, for students (and their parents) with perfect and improved attendance.

Award assemblies for parents of children with 100% attendance. Tip: Alternate every other month doing the assemblies in the a.m. or p.m. to allow for more families to be able to attend.

Bulletin boards featuring students with 100% attendance. . . posting photos of students with their families!

The principal has a lunch group with her mentees. They eat lunch with her in her office and they talk about being responsible and the importance of coming to school on time, each day.