

HOW TO...

Be Creative with Attendance Incentives for High School

THIS SHOWS HOW TO:

2.2.3

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <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

High schools can extend their school theme into their attendance plans. For example, Business of Sports HS has invited athlete speakers to come and present to the students with 100% attendance.

Addressing attendance means dealing with underlying issues, like keeping students on track academically. Over the summer, a school offered a three week tutoring program to the target students.

How to manage a school-wide attendance competition:

1. Identify the goal/winner: Students with 93% or higher attendance.
2. Develop a tracking system: A grid in each classroom which teachers maintain to track student attendance, using stickers to mark how the students are doing.
3. Recruit students to act as "Attendance Leaders:" 4 students from student council and 4 targeted students work with the two social work interns to create the grids and promote the program to their peers.
4. Engage the teachers: Success Mentors explained the program to the classroom teachers at a special luncheon.

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

One of the school's partners gave the students alarm clocks to help them get up on time for school.

The school is conducting outreach to their alumni association, for them to buy gifts for kids with good attendance.

Raffle with movie ticket prizes. The raffle prizes will get bigger over time, building up to the biggest prize to keep the students motivated.

Target students who missed one day in the month get a five dollar gift card from Modell's. The school encourages target students to save up their gift cards towards a bigger item—this will give them a goal to work towards and keep them engaged in trying to get to school on time, each day.