

STUDENT ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE IDEAS

Use this sheet to plan monthly or weekly attendance incentives.
Celebrate growth, effort, and connection. Avoid exclusion by rewarding progress—not perfection.
Mix individual and group incentives to support belonging, motivation, and positive habits.

GRADES K–2: KEEP IT VISUAL, FUN & TANGIBLE

- **“Getting Stronger” Attendance Path** – Create a path on the wall (like stepping stones or a ladder). Each student adds a step when they improve their attendance compared to the prior week.
- **Morning Greeter of the Day** – Students with improving attendance take turns greeting classmates or leading morning meetings.
- **Mini Goal Celebrations** – Students set personal attendance goals, then pick a classroom job or privilege when achieved.
- **Friend Friday** – Pair students up to do a fun buddy activity if they worked hard to attend that week. Everyone gets a chance by showing improvement.
- **Animal Growth Parade** – Add animals to a class zoo board when individual or class attendance improves.
- **Mini Bubble Party** – 10-minute dance break for those improving attendance or showing commitment.

GRADES 3–5: FOSTER BELONGING, FRIENDLY COMPETITION & CHOICE

- **“Shout-Out for Showing Up”** – Weekly class shout-outs for students who improved or met personal goals.
- **Progress Partner Check-Ins** – Buddy up students to encourage each other; celebrate pairs that both show growth with a lunch bunch or prize.
- **“Climb the Mountain” Chart** – Each student tracks their own journey up a classroom mountain based on personal improvement.
- **Creative Choice Time** – Offer a weekly art, building, or writing time that’s open to anyone who has shown attendance effort.
- **“Choose the Brain Break” Pass** – Reward those who’ve shown increased effort with a chance to choose and lead a class activity.
- **Homework Pass Raffle** – Each week of attendance progress = raffle entry for a homework pass.

GRADES 6–12: FOCUS ON AUTONOMY, PEER RECOGNITION & MEANINGFUL PRIVILEGES

- **“On My Way” Pass** – Monthly rewards like test hints or deadline extensions for effort and improvement.
- **Positive Progress Notes** – Call, text, or note home when a student makes strides in showing up more regularly.
- **DJ Friday Feature** – Pick the playlist when individual or class attendance improves.
- **Reflection + Rewards Journals** – Students write weekly reflections on attendance challenges and progress. When done consistently, they unlock a small privilege.
- **Motivation Mentor Minute** – Staff or peer mentors give one-on-one encouragement to students who meet personal goals. 5 days in a row = 5-min walk + chat break with mentor.
- **Personal Purpose Wall** – Students write or post “why I show up” notes, academic, personal, or social motivations as a reminder and encouragement to others.

PLANNING NOTES:

ENCOURAGE PERSONAL GOAL-SETTING INSTEAD OF CLASS-WIDE STREAKS.

USE LANGUAGE THAT HIGHLIGHTS EFFORT, “LOOK HOW FAR YOU’VE COME!” NOT “YOU HAVEN’T MISSED A DAY.”

BE MINDFUL OF HEALTH, TRANSPORTATION, OR FAMILY BARRIERS THAT MAY IMPACT ATTENDANCE—CELEBRATE WHAT’S IN A STUDENT’S CONTROL.

PAIR INCENTIVES WITH RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING AND STUDENT VOICE.

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