

## Motivation for Attendance

What is the most important thing that must happen for a student to learn? The student must be present. Attendance is directly linked to student learning. How can a student learn if they are never in the classroom to hear the information? Students would come to class more often if they were motivated to. Even a small award could influence a student to come to school. I believe that a small award given to the entire class would help motivate students to attend school regularly. Also, the award could be used by the class later in school.

Attendance is vital to a student's success. Not being in class causes the student to miss the lessons taught that day. The student gets behind and could potentially have trouble catching back up. Not only does absence affect one student's learning, it can also affect the rest of the class. Absence alters the continuity of learning throughout the class, setting the absent student back and potentially the rest of the class. Some classes are difficult to continue without the entire class being present. If one student is gone, the rest of the class can't continue with the lessons. If this scenario is repeated many times, the entire class could get behind.

There are many ways to motivate a student to come to class. One way is to offer an award to those with a certain attendance percentage. Schools in nearby communities offer money as a reward. Every month that a class maintained a 90% attendance, the school puts \$25 in the class account. This starts with the Kindergarten class. If the class keeps up their class attendance, by the time they get to high school they will have money to put towards class functions. This would help motivate students to come to school because it also helps them.

The money that is collected over time can help the class. It could help them pay for class functions. They would have a head start on fundraising. The money could go towards a class trip or help pay for prom. It can be difficult to raise money for all the expenses that come in high school and having the amount that was earned through attendance would help. If the class had already raised money to pay for trips, t-shirts, or prom, the money could be used for other things. The sum that was saved over the years could be used for a scholarship that could be awarded to a student of that class.

I believe that this strategy would help increase student attendance. It would motivate the students to show up for class and it would help the class later in high school. Attendance would then, in turn, increase the student's grades. It would increase their learning and could help their grades improve. One student's increased attendance could help other students in the same class by keeping the continuity throughout the class the same. The increased attendance and improved grades could also help the school. By offering an award for attendance, the student body as well as the school could reap many benefits.