

## News Debate: Cashing In



### Should kids be paid for doing well in school?

Need money? Then study up! Some cities are offering kids cash for doing well in school. In New York City, some fourth graders will receive up to \$25 this year for every state test they ace. Schools in other states also offer incentives: In one Massachusetts town, kids receive \$25 for perfect attendance. In Dallas, some schools motivate, or encourage, kids by giving students \$2 for every book they read.

Some people say the incentives are a good way to motivate kids to study. Others say paying children to learn is wrong because kids are the ones who benefit from schoolwork. *WR News* student reporters Andrew Jing and Katelyn Vlastaris each took a side.

## No!

***"Getting good grades in school is what kids are supposed to be doing."***

Paying kids for getting good grades in school? That's outrageous! Getting good grades in school is what kids are supposed to be doing. Students get the benefit from education, so why should we get paid? You don't expect to get paid to eat, do you?

Your teachers and staff have already gone to school and have already gotten their educations. They don't need your good grades. You do!

"It's not like a job. You get good grades for your own good," says student Rolina Luo.

Many important things in life are not necessarily motivated by money. Education is one of them.

Try to do well in school so that you'll have a better shot at being successful in the real world. You shouldn't have to be paid to do that.

## Yes!

***"If you reward us, it may motivate us to do great in subjects we don't like."***

Adults go to work and get paid for their jobs. A kid's job is to go to school. By paying us for doing well in school, you are helping prepare us for the real world. If you give us a toy, we can play with it. If you give us money, however, we can save it or buy something nice. We can even give it to charity. Almost anything is possible!

Student Brett Upperman agrees that kids should be rewarded with money for schoolwork. "Kids need money so we can save it for college. And I want to buy a house someday," says Brett.

If you reward us with money, it may motivate us to do great in subjects we don't like, and then we'll start doing well by ourselves. This could give us a big boost for the rest of our lives.

# incentive                    in        ·        cen        ·        tive

## Advanced Definition

### noun

1. something that motivates one to work or act.

*The Army offers various incentives to enlist.*

*The competition gave the students an incentive to read more books.*

2. a sense of ambition that encourages greater effort or productivity.

*He has shown no incentive in his work.*

### adjective

1. motivating, as to work or action; stimulating; inciting.

*This is part of the company's incentive plan.*

## Spanish cognate

*incentivo*: The Spanish word *incentivo* means incentive.

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## These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. His surprise victory raised his profile overnight and gave him the **incentive** to push himself harder.
2. Government officials have tried to make hybrids appealing despite the higher price tags. Local governments have offered **incentives**, such as tax breaks and free parking, for people who drive hybrids.
3. In New York City, some fourth graders will receive up to \$25 this year for every state test they ace. Schools in other states also offer **incentives**: In one Massachusetts town, kids receive \$25 for perfect attendance.



# reward                      re        ·        ward

## Definition

### noun

1. something you receive because you did something good.

*She got a raise in salary as a reward for all her hard work.*

### verb

1. to give something to someone for doing something good.

*I rewarded my children for their good report cards by taking them to the movies.*

## Advanced Definition

### noun

1. a sum of money or something else of value that is promised to someone for the capture of criminals, return of stolen property, or other service.
2. anything that satisfies or pleases, as a return for something done.

*His praise is a good reward.*

### transitive verb

1. to provide recompense for (something done).

*She rewarded his efforts.*

2. to give something to (someone) as a reward.

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## These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. But he had to admit that getting a **reward** was nice.
2. Everyone loves pizza, but should it be used as a **reward** for reading?
3. So the saying "kindness is its own **reward**" may not be true just for humans.
4. "Only one **reward** can be yours," the queen said. "Choose wisely." "That's easy," Peter said. "I'll take the chicken."
5. "You have rescued my horse," Queen Olivia told the young boy standing before her. "Now you shall have a **reward**."
6. You'll notice, if you ever try and **reward** your cat with something sugary, your pet doesn't have much interest in candy.
7. If you send a thousand dollars to cover the processing fee, I will put a million dollars in your account as a **reward**.
8. If you **reward** us with money, it may motivate us to do great in subjects we don't like, and then we'll start doing well by ourselves.
9. A month after Paul Montgomery, a coin collector in New Hampshire, offered a \$1 million **reward** for the 1913 Liberty Head nickel - one of the rarest American coins - the Walton family came forward and said that they thought they owned one.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. According to the text, how much money do some students receive for perfect attendance?

- A. \$25
- B. \$10
- C. \$2
- D. \$0

2. How does the author present the information in this text?

- A. The author describes the issue of paying students for doing well in school, then sets forth arguments for and against paying for grades.
- B. The author describes different states in the U.S. that are paying students for schoolwork, and then points out that student reporters took sides on this issue.
- C. The author states that getting good grades in school is what kids are supposed to be doing, then argues that students should work hard in school so they will be successful in the future.
- D. The author proposes that rewarding students will help them do well in subjects they don't like, then compares adults going to work to children going to school.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

In New York City, some fourth graders will receive up to \$25 this year for every state test they ace. Schools in other states also offer incentives: In one Massachusetts town, kids receive \$25 for perfect attendance. In Dallas, some schools motivate, or encourage, kids by giving students \$2 for every book they read.

What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A. All cities and towns provide students with financial incentives to improve their performance in school.
- B. Some cities offer rewards to students for their achievements at school, but not every city rewards the same behavior.
- C. The parents of students are responsible for providing the money to their students if the school can't afford it.
- D. In Massachusetts, students can get paid \$25 dollars for attendance and \$2 for every book they read.

4. What can be inferred from the text?

- A. All students in New York City are paid \$25 for good state test scores.
- B. It is a bad idea to pay students to do well in school.
- C. Not all schools pay their students to do well.
- D. Paying students to do well in school is very effective.

5. What would be another good title for this text?

- A. The Pros and Cons of Paying Students for Good Grades
- B. Education Benefits You for Life
- C. Money for Grades Equals Gifts to Charity
- D. Paid to Succeed on the Test

6. Read these sentences from the text.

Student Brett Upperman agrees that kids should be **rewarded** with money for schoolwork. "Kids need money so we can save it for college. And I want to buy a house someday," says Brett.

In these sentences, what does the word "**rewarded**" most nearly mean?

- A. given another chance to succeed
- B. given poor-quality items
- C. given a strong education
- D. given something for good work

7. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Some people are against paying kids for good grades \_\_\_\_\_ they feel it is a student's responsibility to do well on their own.

- A. because
- B. when
- C. and
- D. although

**8.** How do some schools in the city of Dallas try to motivate students to read?

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**9.** What do you think might make a school more likely to consider paying students? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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