

## Current Events

### Schools Pay Students to Learn

#### For Discussion



1 What is an incentive?

Incentive is a motivation to get a person to perform a task.

2 What is capitalism?

The way the economy is.

3 Do all students need incentives from parents/teachers to motivate them to learn?

Not all students need incentives from people, but most do because they feel if they have something to work for, they'll actually do it.

4 Are bigger allowances, gold stars, candy, etc. sufficient motivation for some students?

Yes, that way, they can get something good out of working for better grades.

5 What is the difference between parents paying their children money for academic achievements and schools paying them?

The difference is that it's their parents and most parents just give stuff to their children anyway. The schools would be paying them for something that their parents (and their tax dollars) make them do.

6 Is it OK for schools to pay students if their parents cannot afford to? Is this fair to all students? What about students whose parents could afford to pay but choose not to? What about the students who are self-motivated learners?

I think it would be okay to pay students if their parents cannot afford to because not a lot of families in schools make a lot of money. For students that want to get paid by the school, but have the money, they should stop thinking about only profiting for themselves, and give other people a chance to get something that they don't normally get. The self-motivated learners could also get money if they wished, but if they chose not to, then that's fine too.

7 What is the difference between motivation and bribery?

Motivation is getting someone to do something that they don't want to do, but will help them later in life. Bribery is paying someone or giving someone something to do something, but it won't help you in life, it would just make things worse.

8 Do you think that cash rewards for learning would instill the wrong values in kids?

Yes, because then kids would think that they wouldn't have to actually work for anything, that they could get whatever they wanted by being "motivated".

9 Would cash incentives be effective in your school? Would they have a lasting impact on student achievement?

I don't think cash incentives would be effective in my school because a good percentage of the kids already get whatever they want and they really don't need anymore. It would have a lasting impact because as the years go on, children get more and more spoiled and they would think that they wouldn't have to work for anything.

10 Does it matter whether cash incentives are paid for by private donations or with tax dollars?

I think it does matter because if you pay a student with tax dollars, the parent's money would just end up being recycled back to them. Also, the teachers would also lose money in their salary.

