

Teacher-to-Student Incentive:

Children learn preferences for foods made available to them, including those that are unhealthy. There are many disadvantages to using food as a reward:

- It undermines nutrition education being taught in the school environment.
- It encourages over-consumption of foods high in added sugar and fat; and
- It teaches children to eat when they're not hungry as a reward to themselves.

Teachers are encouraged to consider non-food items as a teacher to student incentive. Should teachers decide to use food items as an incentive, they are encouraged to adhere to the District Nutritional Standards.

Guidelines--Alternatives to Using Food as a Reward

Zero-Cost Alternatives

- Sit by friends
- Watch a video
- Read outdoors
- Teach the class
- Have extra art time
- Enjoy class outdoors
- Have an extra recess
- Play a computer game
- Read to a younger class
- Get a no homework pass
- Make deliveries to the office
- Listen to music while working
- Play a favorite game or puzzle
- Earn play money for privileges
- Walk with a teacher during lunch
- Eat lunch outdoors with the class
- Be a helper in another classroom
- Eat lunch with a teacher or principal
- Dance to favorite music in the classroom
- Get "free choice" time at the end of the day
- Listen with a headset to a book on audiotape
- Have a teacher read a special book to the class

Low-Cost Alternatives

- Select a paperback book
- Enter a drawing for donated prizes
- Take a trip to the treasure box (non-food items)
- Get stickers, pencils, and other school supplies
- Receive a video store or movie theater coupon
- Get a set of flash cards printed from a computer
- Receive a "mystery pack" (notepad, folder, sports, cards, etc.)

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 10, 2009

Revised on: June 21, 2010