

## Reasons for Rewarding Students for Appropriate Behavior

- 1. To actively teach students what behaviors are expected of them (i.e., Tier 1 Expectations)**
  - a. Rewards serve as a teaching tool for expected behaviors
  - b. Rewards are an efficient way to provide immediate feedback to students about their behavior.
- 2. To increase the likelihood students will engage in appropriate behavior**
  - a. If students value the reward, they will be more likely to demonstrate that behavior again.
  - b. When students see someone receiving a reward for demonstrating appropriate behavior, they will be more likely to engage in that same behavior in order to be rewarded also.
  - c. In the absence of a reward system, students often only receive adult attention when they engage in unacceptable behavior. In order to get the desired adult attention, they will continue to demonstrate inappropriate behavior.
  - d. An occasional external reward, whether tangible or social, has a positive impact on student behaviors.
- 3. To increase the opportunities to build positive adult-student relationships**
  - a. An effective reward system provides teachers and staff the opportunity to make a positive connection with all students.
  - b. Providing positive recognition or reinforcement only takes a few seconds, but can have a lasting impact on both the student and the staff member.
- 4. To encourage students to demonstrate positive social-emotional skills and behaviors**
  - a. Even in schools that do not have a lot of students engaging in disruptive behavior, a reward system encourages all students to take the next step toward gaining more appropriate social skills.
- 5. To create a positive school climate and culture**
  - a. An effective reward system provides multiple opportunities for staff to acknowledge appropriate student behavior throughout the day
  - b. By acknowledging/rewarding students' appropriate behavior vs. their inappropriate behaviors sets a positive, accepting, supportive climate throughout the school.
- 6. To counteract negative peer influences**
  - a. Peer pressure is tough to stand up to. Sometimes, the added incentive a reward system provides can make the difference for a student and help him/her make a good choice in a tough situation.
  - b. The reward system also gives students a way of justifying a good choice to their peers.
- 7. To provide students feedback on how well they are following the expectations**
  - a. Students need a way to know they are on the right track with their behavior. A reward system provides the avenue. In addition, other students learn from watching a student receive a reward.
  - b. Rewarding a student only takes a couple of seconds and produces a ripple effect.
- 8. To help shape intrinsic motivation for students**
  - a. Reward systems are a tool to help shape student behavior and create intrinsic motivation.

