



Pay Kids for Good Grades?

NEWS FACT: Up to 5,000 freshmen at 20 public high schools in Chicago, Illinois, will get cash for their grades this year. They will be tested every five weeks in math, English, social sciences, science, and physical education. Each student will earn \$50 for an A, \$35 for a B, and \$20 for a C.



Since the fall of 2006, some public schools in New York City and Washington, D.C., have paid their students for good grades, and even average ones. In New York, there is a considerable racial achievement gap in schools. In D.C., a district with a large number of minority students, fewer than 13 percent of middle school students meet reading and math standards. Chicago is adopting the incentive program because a high percentage of ninth-graders there are being held back.

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What Do You Think?

Should students be paid for good grades?

YES

Iriana Balbian, 14, who attends ninth grade in Chicago, approves of the program. "Students should get paid for good grades but not for C's," she says. "Schools should encourage students to get good grades."

Kelsey Christian, 13, an eighth-grader in Mansfield, Massachusetts, also likes the idea. "A little bit of money would motivate me a lot," she tells JS. "It would give students something to work for."

NO

Jamie Sanders, 14, a New York City ninth-grader, sees a downside to the plan. He says that it's a "clever thought, but there are a high number of lazy students who would not keep up their work ethic if they stopped receiving money."

Makaula Reunpelt, 11, is a sixth-grader from Des Moines, Iowa. She thinks that the program may cause financial pressures. "Schools won't have enough money to pay their students if a lot of students get good grades."

NUMBERS IN THE NEWS

1 in 25

Number of Colorado homes expected to go into foreclosure in the next two years.

90,000

Number of New York City elementary school students who missed at least a month of classes last year.

\$4,600,000

Amount a judge ordered two New York restaurants to give 35 delivery workers who were illegally underpaid. The workers had earned less than \$2 an hour.

532 grams

Carbon emissions per mile for sending a ton of cargo by air [as compared with 12 grams per mile if shipped by sea].

2,000 to 2,800

Estimated age of "Britain's oldest toy," a hedgehog carved from chalk that was recently found buried near Stonehenge.

SOURCES: Forelosures, Pew Research; Unpaid Wages, New School; Carbon, pay, hedgehog, emissions, BBC; Hedgehog Report, New National Geographic