



Board Agenda Item #	IV D: Action Item
Date:	April 7, 2022
To:	Magnolia Public Schools – Board of Directors
From:	Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent
Staff Lead:	Jason Hernandez, Director of Student Services
RE:	Approval of MPS Student Recognition and Incentive Policy

Proposed Board Recommendation

Staff recommends that the MPS Board approves the Student Recognition and Incentive Policy for all schools.

Background

Magnolia Public Schools (“MPS”) seeks to increase the effectiveness and positive outcomes of its students’ academic, behavioral, and socio-emotional education through the schools’ Attendance Recognition, Academic Recognition, Athletic Recognition, and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (“PBIS”) programs.

Purpose:

The purpose of the policy is to benefit and improve the effectiveness of academic, behavioral, and socio-emotional education of MPS students in schools for the public interest. The key features of the MPS school-wide recognition program are as follows:

- The system is designed for ALL students. Emphasis is placed on making improvements and reaching milestones on data indicators.
- Public recognition provides a model for other students. The recognition for positive actions encourages their peers to display similar behaviors.
- Recognitions and incentives will be meaningful to students, staff, and families in the school community.
- Community members collaborate to create and sustain recognition of student achievement in various areas.

- Recognition can always be delivered unpredictably.
- Importance of re-teaching behaviors as needed. The community will work to identify areas of need and use reteaching moments to increase positive reinforcement and monitoring.

Scope: Recognition and incentive programs apply to the areas and school functions namely, Student Attendance, PBIS/Student discipline, Academic Achievement, Athletic Achievement, and Parent Involvement.

The MPS Board of Directors (“Board”) has determined that supporting these school and organization-wide student recognition programs serves a direct and substantial public purpose by encouraging student engagement to reach milestones, fostering a school community that supports student achievement, and by reinforcing behaviors that benefit all students and the entire school community. The Board, therefore, authorizes the expenditure of funds for these programs as described in this policy.

Budget Impact: The passage of the policy will have a varying impact on school budgets. Each school will determine allowable funding sources and budget accordingly for the expenses.

Attachment:

MPS Student Recognition and Incentive Policy

Revision: 1

Prepared by: Central Office

Effective Date: 4/7/2022

Approved by: BOD

Title: MPS STUDENT RECOGNITION AND INCENTIVE POLICY

Magnolia Public Schools (“MPS”) seeks to increase the effectiveness and positive outcomes of its students’ academic, behavioral, and socio-emotional education through the schools’ Attendance Recognition, Academic Recognition, Athletic Recognition, and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (“PBIS”) programs. The MPS Board of Directors (“Board”) has determined that supporting these school and organization-wide student recognition programs serves a direct and substantial public purpose by encouraging student engagement to reach milestones, fostering a school community that supports student achievement, and by reinforcing behaviors that benefit all students and the entire school community. The Board, therefore, authorizes the expenditure of funds for these programs as described in this policy.

Approved Recognition Programs

- **Attendance Recognition.** MPS recognizes the important role that daily attendance serves in education. A student must be present at school to learn. Regular school attendance is often regarded as one of the most important elements of a student’s education. The Board authorizes each MPS school to recognize students who maintain an attendance rate of 100%, or 98% or higher, and students who have significantly increased their attendance rate from the prior school year(s). This would be a one-time recognition per year, preferably near the end of the school year.
- **Academic Recognition.** MPS wishes to acknowledge (in a public manner) students who succeed academically in order to motivate those students to continue working hard and to inspire and encourage other students. The Board authorizes each MPS school to recognize the top 15% of scholars in each grade level, and students who have made significant academic improvement during the school year at the principal’s determination. This would be a one-time recognition per year, preferably near the end of the school year.
- **Athletic Recognition.** MPS observes how athletics encourage students to push themselves physically, to work together and support other students as a team, to respond to wins and losses with grace, and to gain self-esteem. Student-Athletes have the opportunity to represent their school with pride and responsibility to maintain academic eligibility, high standards of citizenship at all times, sportsmanship, and play the game to the best of their ability. The Board authorizes each MPS school to recognize students who earn “most valuable player” or “MVP” status on their teams or in a particular sport, event, or match.

- **PBIS Program.** MPS appreciates the benefit that setting behavior expectations and strategies have on encouraging good behavior and increasing school safety, which benefits the particular student as well as the schools' overall educational programs and campus environment. The Board authorizes each MPS school to recognize students who have made significant improvements through the PBIS program or another similar merit-based system, as determined by the principal.

Approved Recognition Awards and Incentives

The Board delegates authority to each school principal, after consulting with school teachers, coaches and staff, as the case may be for each recognition category, to select students to recognize through one or more of the approved recognition programs above. The cost for each award shall be nominal and reasonable, generally not to exceed \$50.00 per item, or if a meal, per student.

The items that may be awarded to MPS students for recognition as described herein shall be limited to the following:

- Positive phone call home
- Lunch Speed Pass
- Free Dress Pass
- Entered in a raffle
- Certificates or trophies
- School sweatshirt or other school name/logo promotional items
- Letter jacket or school name/logo apparel (for athletic recognition)
- Public recognition at an assembly or in the school newspaper, newsletter, or other publication
- Honor dinner or appreciation meal

The Board has determined that the above student recognitions, awarded in accordance with this policy, serve a direct and substantial public purpose. The school principal shall retain documentation for all award purchases, including the name of the recipient, the date and cost of the award or recognition, and the basis for recognition or incentive.

Originally Adopted: April 7, 2022

Revision History: