**Schoolwide System to Encourage Expected Behavior**

It is important to provide adult contingent and non-contingent attention, specific positive feedback and tangible reinforcers. MO-SW-PBS encourages schools to pull all of these strategies together to create and document a comprehensive schoolwide system to encourage expected behavior.

While a “ticket” or tangible schoolwide system for encouraging expected behavior will cover many or your reinforcement needs, it is important to remember:

* Not all students are encouraged by the same thing or in the same ways
* As students are learning new skills they need immediate and frequent reinforcement
* As students demonstrate mastery they respond to intermittent to long-term reinforcement to maintain their social behavioral efforts.
* Many students try to get or seek social attention while others try to avoid it.
* Students who avoid social attention may be reinforced by solitary activities, privileges or tangibles.
* Many young students are motivated by adult attention while older students typically are more motivated by peer attention, activities, privileges or freedom.

Therefore, it is recommended that a schoolwide system to encourage students include social attention, activities, or tangible items that appeal to all student needs in your school (Lane, Kahberg & Menzies, 2009).

**FREQUENT, INTERMITTENT AND OCCASIONAL**

As schools develop their schoolwide system to encourage expected behavior it is important to think of when recognition will take place. We have discussed how specific positive feedback should be provided frequently enough to ensure appropriate student behavior receives more attention than inappropriate behavior. Best practice indicates positive teacher interactions should occur at a **frequent** rate with a ratio of 4:1. Other components of the schoolwide system to encourage expected behavior may occur less frequently, in an **intermittent** way. Just as quarterly honor roll students are announced, monthly or quarterly recognition for social behavior give students goals to work toward. A comprehensive schoolwide system to encourage expected behavior would also include some long-term, **occasional** activities at the end of the semester or school year. A range of recognition activities will help keep your schoolwide system interesting and fun for students and staff.

Schoolwide System to Encourage Expected Behavior Examples

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Frequent** | **Intermittent** | **Occasional** |
| • Specific Positive Feedback• Schoolwide Tangible• Notes Home | • Phone Calls Home• Post Cards Home• Special Privileges• Extra Computer Time | • Special Projects• Recognition from the Principal• Student of the Week |