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Gifts for good grades

The controversy of incentives

Celeste Polidori, Univision Online

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Many schools in the United States began to implement a different system to motivate their students: to deliver rewards for their good grades. Within this kind of gifts are vouchers for fast food, toys and even an MP3 player. Opinions are divided about its value: there are specialists in favor of and against the practice. Is the solution to improve the poor performance?



Getty Images

Many schools are implementing an incentive system that experts consider controversial

The two sides of the coin

"When my daughter was young then do not hesitate in reward for good grades. We decided that this was a big commitment. And you pay 10 dollars for each A earned. But she had to pay C \$ 20 per each carrying home . Wow he did a good job: she is in medical school and be a doctor in 18 months!" Says Mary Jo Fay, a mother who is also a columnist and writer in the United States.

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Like her, many parents and schools feel that the rewards are good. However, there are different ways to encourage good grades. Recently, a school in Orlando gave his students a few cards that could be exchanged for a famous fast food chain fast food . Some parents were upset not only because it is junk food but also because the reward was a sort of advertising.

The Vice-Dean of Villanova University in Philadelphia, Stephen Jones said that the incentives need not be bad. This specialist is even in favor of rewarding good students.

"I do not think there is a limit of age at which a child can receive a reward. There are some kindergarten programs that use toys as a reward. Rather than suggest that the reward money is a gift for some stores," describes Stephen Jones.

But not all education experts and parents feel the same way. Professor Michal Ann Strahilevitz, Ph.D. *Golden Gate University (Golden Gate University)* explained that exist in psychology research showed that when people get paid for something reduces the desire for that person to perform the same action for free.

With the risk that this brings. This

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specialist described it clearly: "If you pay them to students for good grades they begin to believe they are doing things right by the material issues and

can substantially reduce your love for learning."

Even some studies show that the rewards, far from encouraging, end up discouraging. One of the researchers in this area is Theresa Amabile, the author of articles such as "*Reward, Motivation intrinsic, and Creativity*" (Reward, motivation and creativity), Professor of Business Administration from Bryant Edsel Ford and co-head of the Unit Business Administration at Harvard *Business School* (Harvard Business School).

In one of its research found that children and students who receive rewards for completing specified task performed by less creativity.

Does the interim? Achieving that balance so complex. That is, [they want to study and](#) receive once in a while a reward.

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