

Should You Get Paid for Doing Your Schoolwork?

By John M. Grade 5

Scholastic performed a survey of kids who think they should get paid for doing well in school. In Texas, kids get paid two dollars for every book they read, and in New York, they get paid twenty-five dollars for every perfect score on a test. Do you think that you should get paid?

According to the survey, more than 79,000 kids in the United States said that they should and nearly 61,000 said they shouldn't. Approximately 66,000 boys voted "yes," and almost 56,000 girls said "no." In Pennsylvania, two-thirds of the kids voted "yes."

I surveyed Indian Lane's fifth grade classes. Close to sixty percent voted that kids should get paid, while nearly forty percent voted "no." This compares closely to fifth graders nationally in which sixty-six percent voted "yes" and thirty-four percent voted "no."

I voted "no" because school is a priority. Even though you don't get paid with money, you get paid with an education. If you don't get a good education, you will have a difficult future because you're not only learning from text books, you're learning how to learn. This is something you need to be successful.

Other downfalls would include the school using funds that might pay for field trips and extra-curricular activities to pay for grades. This would seriously affect the quality of our education. Paying for grades could also promote cheating when students lose sight of their work and focus on the money.

At first, getting paid for good grades sounds like a great idea. However, when you think about the consequences, it can lead to difficulties because priorities get mixed up. Kids should work hard in school to get an education. They shouldn't need money to bribe them to do well. You can learn more about the survey and cast your vote online at scholasticnews.com.