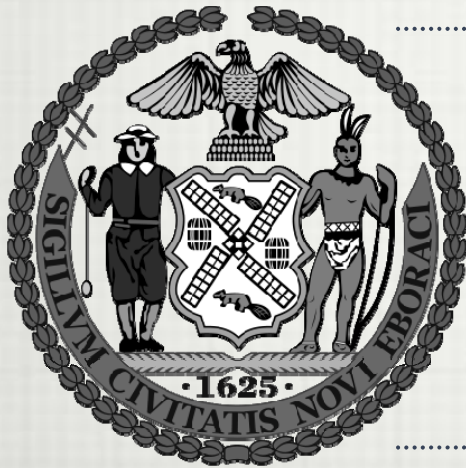


ATTENDANCE APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION SYSTEMS



EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY.

**MAYOR'S INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE
ON TRUANCY, CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM
AND SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT**

Fall 2012

WHO WAS THERE FOR YOU?

Take a moment to think back over your school career.

Now think of a person who was instrumental in brightening your life during that time.

Write that person's name on a post-it note and put it up on the wall of fame.

OBJECTIVES

- Participants will review and discuss strategies important to supporting positive student attendance and addressing absence
- Participants will understand how school connectedness is correlated to a positive school experience
- Participants will review and share known and best practices

How Do We Know If A Youth Is On Or Off the Path?

Research tells us it's the ABCs....

Attendance:

If youth are to learn in school, they must first show up. Successful students consistently attend school.

Behavior:

Successful youth generally behave well, which allows them to remain engaged in their learning activities. Misbehavior, on the other hand, disrupts learning.

Coursework:

It's particularly important that youth earn in Math and English: good grades in these primary subjects, which form the academic basis for most other subjects.

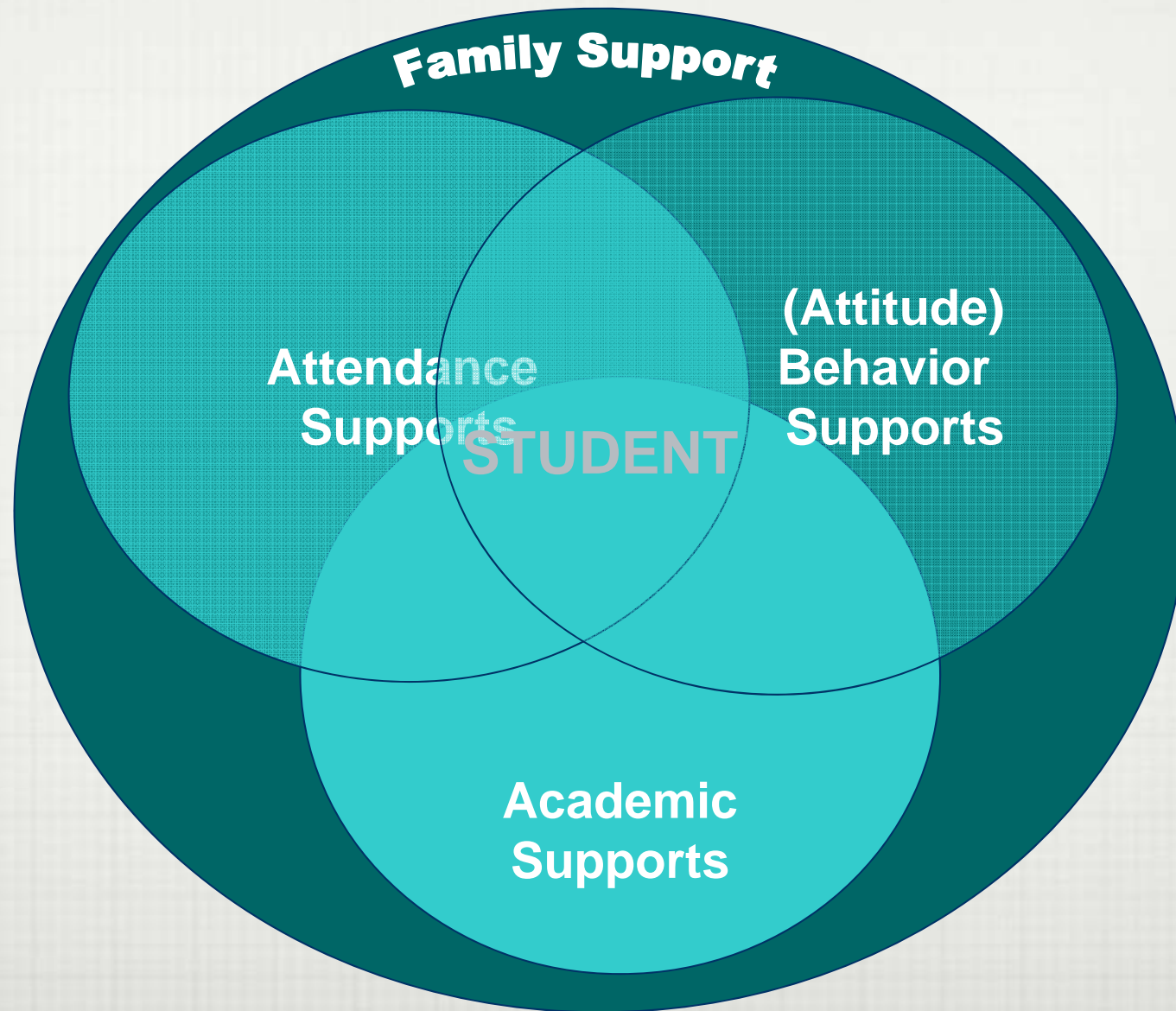
Attendance is Learned

- Attendance is a behavior
- We can teach good attendance habits
- We intervene with students having attendance problems
- We monitor attendance and need to assess the effectiveness of our interventions

Why is attendance important?

- Poor attendance **impedes** academic success
- Absence from school for any reason has negative consequences
 - Loss of instructional time
- Absenteeism at every grade level hinders academic advancement

We Believe in a Spectrum of Intervention



3 Tiered Approach to Attendance

Targeted/ Intensive TIER 3 LEVEL

Severely Chronically
Absent or 38+ days
Far Below Basic
<88% in-seat attendance
23+ days absent

- *Intensive Interventions**
- *SART & SARB Meetings**
- *Specific and individualized plans**
- *Educational alternatives/options**
- *Case Managed support**

Selected (At-risk Students) LEVELS – TIER 2

Below Basic: 89-88 % in-seat attendance
20 - 22 days absent *Chronically Absent*
Basic: 95-90 % in-seat attendance
9 – 19 days absent

- *Re-teach Attendance**
- * Systems of Identification**
- *Student/family supports**
- *Documentation & Monitoring**
- * Team Meetings (COST/SST)**

Universal Level

80% of all students
should be attending 96% of the time
LEVELS – TIER 1
Proficient: 96+ % in-seat attendance
Perfect Attendance: 100% with less than 3 tardies

- *Teach Attendance**
- *Reinforce good habits**
- *Positive School Climate**
- * Communicate goals**
- * Attendance plans**

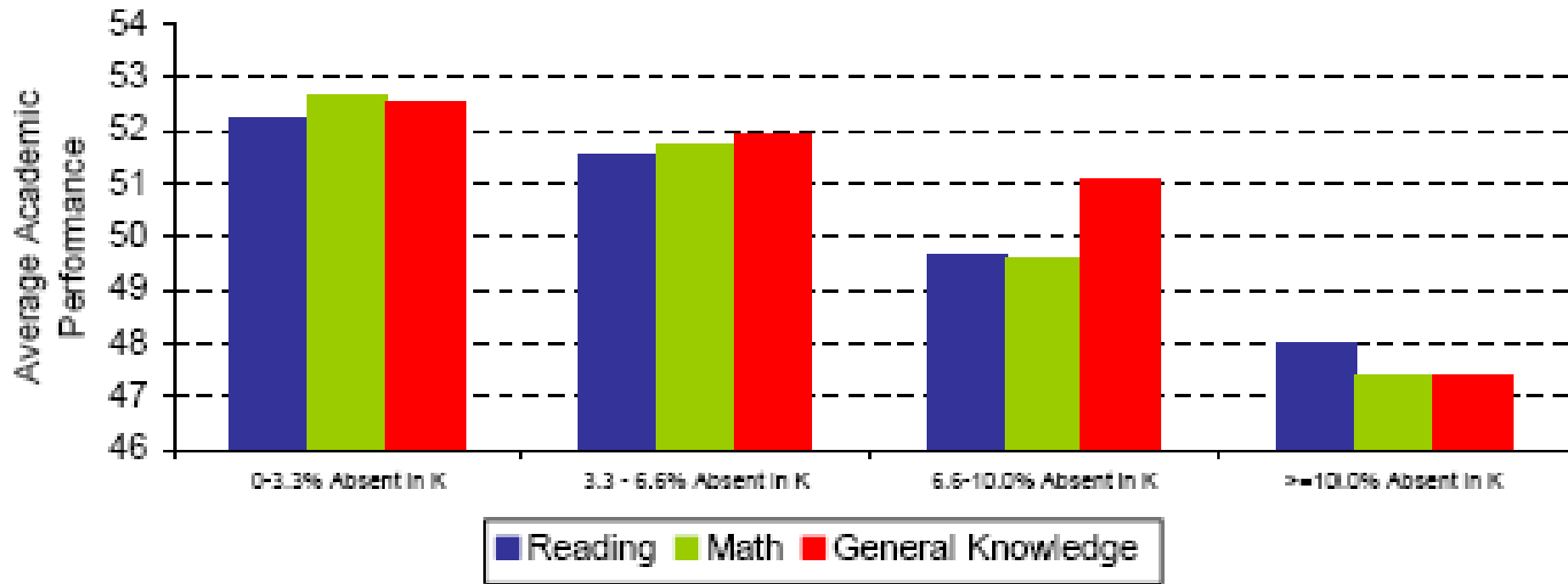
Academic Achievement and Assets

■ Studies have associated Commitment-to-Learning assets directly or indirectly with:

- ☒ Increased high school completion
- ☒ Increased enrollment in college
 - ☒ Higher grades
- ☒ Higher achievement test scores
 - ☒ Better attendance
- ☒ Less sexual intercourse and childbearing
 - ☒ Less drug use
 - ☒ Fewer conduct problems

Kindergarten attendance matters!

Chronic absentees in Kindergarten had the lowest academic performance in First Grade



Chronic absence in Kindergarten is associated with lower academic performance in 1st grade among all children, and most significantly for Latino youth.

(Hedy Chang, 2009)

Predictors of Dropout Middle School

(Balfanz, Neild, and Herzog, 2007)

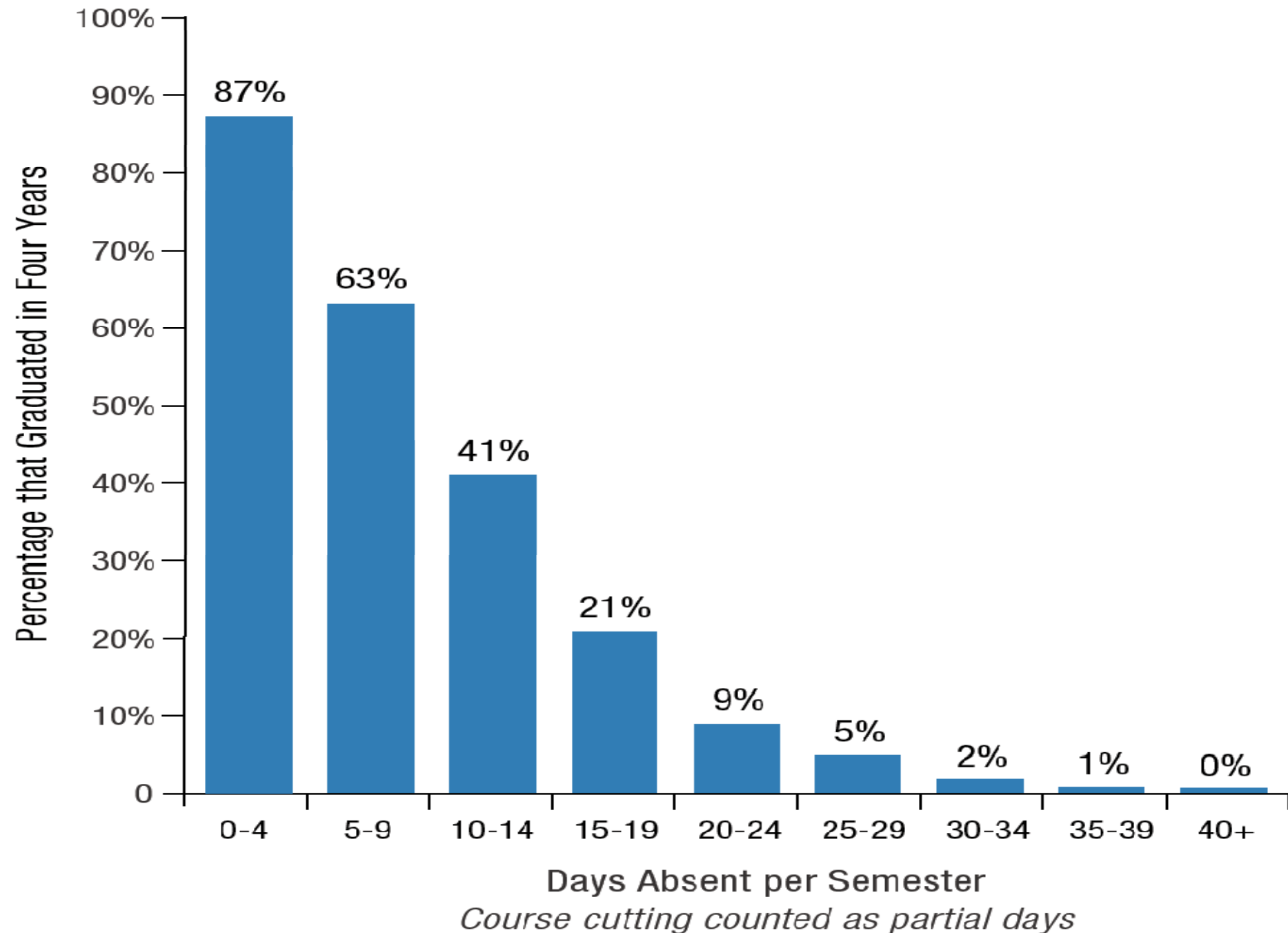
6th graders with even one of the following four signals had at least a three in four chance of dropping out of high school:

- A final grade of *F* in mathematics
- A final grade of *F* in English
- Attendance below 80 percent for the year
- A final “unsatisfactory” behavior mark in at least one class

Students with more than one signal had an even higher probability of dropping out within six years

Four-Year Graduation Rates by Freshman Absence Rates

“What Matters for Staying On Track and Graduating in Chicago Public Schools” (July 2007)

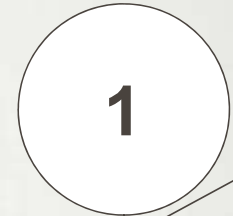


Attendance is everybody's business!

**ATTENDANCE
IS THE FIRST STEP IN
DROPOUT PREVENTION**

We must all consider attendance

4:1



- 4 POSITIVE interactions to every negative

RECOGNITION SYSTEMS

- Individual
- Small Groups
- Classrooms
- Grade Levels
- School wide
- Parents
- Community

INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION

- Praise (Intrinsic rewards)
 - Thanks for coming to school
 - Thanks for making it on time
 - I appreciate you coming in the rain
- Coupons/Tickets (Extrinsic rewards)
 - Token systems
 - Points

COUPONS/RAFFLES



ATTENDANCE TICKET

SAMPLE SCHOOL NAME

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO SCHOOL TODAY!

YOU ARE AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF OUR EDUCATION COMMUNITY!

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

POSTCARD

Dear Student,

THANKS for coming everyday this week! I know that working together we are going to improve your _____ skills!

I really look forward to seeing you at school!

Sincerely,

Your Success Mentor Buddy

CLASSROOMS/GRADE LEVELS/SCHOOLWIDE

- “First to Lunch Bunch”
- Spelling out “Perfect Attendance”
- Popcorn parties
- Attendance race
- Perfect Attendance Week
- Double points day
- Principal challenge

PARENTS & COMMUNITY

- Award parents during assemblies
- Recognize parents in newsletters
- Letters/Phone calls home
- Recognize community supporters
- Invite community members to present awards

COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT

- **Positive communities promote positive families**
- **Include community members** (businesses, elected officials, clubs, faith organizations)
- **Invite community to be involved**
 - Donations
 - Recognitions
- **Media & public relations**
 - Newsletters
 - School paper

Don't forget the parents!

ACKNOWLEDGE PARENTS!

- Parents want to be acknowledged too!
 - from student
 - from teacher
 - from principal
 - from **YOU!**
- Everyone loves personal mail
 - Remember the 4:1 ratio

Dear Mom & Dad,

Thank you for sending me to school everyday this week.

Did you know that I improved in spelling?

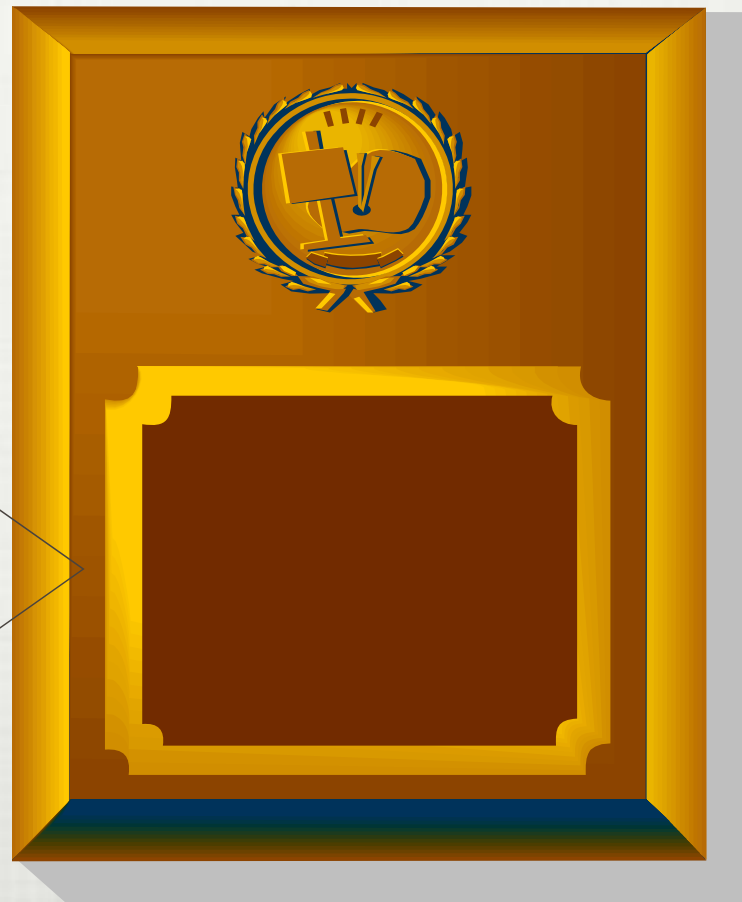
Love,

Your son/daughter

BEING POSITIVE WORKS!



WALL OF FAME



THANK YOU!

“Thank you for the difference that you are going to make in the lives of our students and families. You are changing the future of our families, our schools, and our community.”

YOU are changing the world!