

I-4: Consistently reinforce academic efforts toward the big goal

**Explain that the purpose of reinforcements is to celebrate progress toward goal**

### Why is this important?

When the rationale for giving extrinsic reinforcements is made clear, students are more likely to understand the purpose of rewards and gradually build intrinsic value for hard work and academic growth. When the meaning of rewards is not communicated clearly, students are more likely to see rewards and recognition as the ultimate goal.

### What does this mean?

What It Is	What It Is Not
<p><b>Always making it clear that the purpose of reinforcements is to highlight effort and academic progress</b></p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <p>“Nakya has improved her test scores by 20% because she has been studying hard at home and completing her homework more frequently – congratulations on being the most improved scholar of the month!”</p> <p>“You really went the extra mile by attending after school tutoring and now it paid off on the unit exam – excellent work!”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giving out prizes without saying why</li> <li>• Giving vague praise that doesn't highlight specific actions – e.g., ‘you are really great’, ‘good job,’ ‘he’s a smart student’</li> <li>• Being inconsistent in explaining the rationale for rewards – only highlighting the purpose of the privilege some of the time</li> </ul>