

## Forming an Attendance Contract

### "High-Fives for Attendance"

*John has had terrible attendance for the past few years. He's notorious with administration and the attendance clerk for his "sick" days. At the beginning of this year, his attendance started out good before going downhill. Quickly. First we had to have a serious sit down to talk about his attendance. He's a very respectful student, so it went well, but since he's heard all these things before, I tried to make a deeper connection for him by talking about high school and his future success.*

*I made an attendance contract with him in November. He came up with all the ideas it includes (what John can do, what I could do to help, how other staff could help, how his family could help, and what his reward for accomplishing it would be). I wanted him to feel ownership and responsibility for this contract, so I even had him type it himself. For the contract we decided that he could only miss two days of school a month, since he had already missed nine days since the start of the school year. These are the main points of the contract:*

#### **What I am going to do...**

- Always try to come to school.
- Still come to school with a head ache, stomach ache, cold, when I hurt my hand.
- Try not to miss school more than two times a month.
- Always get my make-up work when I miss school.

#### **How Ms. Julia can help me...**

- Call my house if I am not in school.
- Give me award when I come to school on time everyday for a week.

#### **How other people at school can help me...**

- Support me at school.

#### **How my family can help me...**

- Wake me up on time and make sure I stay awake.
- Help me get to school on time, and make sure I leave the house by 8:35.

#### **What happens when I accomplish my goal...**

- Ms. Julia said she will buy me lunch once a month.
- Ms. Julia will give me a high five everyday she sees me at school on time.



*I kept up my end of the bargain and called home when he was out of school, talked to him about it when I saw him, and high-fived him every day that I saw him at school on time. His attendance steadily got better, as did my relationship with Johns and his grades! He didn't make it in November or December, because he missed three days of school, but FINALLY in January, he made it! The big prize was getting to eat lunch (from somewhere of his choosing) with me. He decided on pizza, so I ordered in and spent a lunch period with him. Next we're going to work on the tardies.*

**- Julia Gartzke**