



**Kiwanis**

**Bring Up  
Grades**



**Indigo Inch's**  
study tip:

**Yo.** Schedule long  
term projects...  
then accomplish them  
one inch at a time!

# What is Bring Up Grades?

**Bring Up Grades BUG**  
*Being young leaders through  
academic achievement.*

**Bring Up Grades (BUG)** is designed to recognize students who raise their grades to an acceptable range, and maintain or continue raising them from one grading period to the next. Recognition includes being placed on the school's BUG Honor Roll; a pizza, ice cream, or other food-themed party; and presentation of certificates, pins, and other giveaways.

A sponsoring club supports the BUG program at the school. The club plans BUG recognition events, provides awards, and establishes partnerships with local community businesses to secure support for the program. Sponsoring businesses have the option of providing coupons, giveaways, or food for BUG parties.

The teacher establishes a base line grade for each student during the first grading period. Students are honored each grading period thereafter if they maintain their grades and raise one grade.

A Super BUG also is honored as part of this program. A Super BUG is a student who served as a mentor assisting others in achieving their goals of bringing up their grades.

Though this program was created for the traditional A, B, C grading system, it can be adapted to work with any type of grading system. Example: Increasing a mark from U-Unsatisfactory, to N-Needs Improvement, or raising a mark from N-Needs Improvement, to S-Satisfactory would qualify a student for recognition.

The BUG program was created for use in a school setting, but a community center or agency supporting youth could use this program to encourage academic achievement. The designated program coordinator would recognize participants when report card grades are shared and a grade has been raised.

Visit the Bring Up Grades Web site at [www.bringupgrades.org](http://www.bringupgrades.org) for more information about starting a Bring Up Grades program in your school or organization.



# How it works!

**The BUG program is fun and simple to implement.**

The program can be used to promote academic achievement at school, or an agency supporting youth may want to incorporate this program to encourage students to improve.

## **The BUG program is successful because:**

-  Students are encouraged to reach their potential.
-  Students learn to set and achieve a realistic goal.
-  Students compete with themselves, not other students.
-  The program encourages development of partnerships between the business community and the school or agency.
-  Implementation of the program takes minimal effort from the sponsoring club and the school or agency.
-  School administration or agency management can adapt the program to meet their needs.

## **Here is a checklist to assist with setting up and implementing the program:**

### **The sponsoring club should:**

- Read through the Bring Up Grades Guidebook and visit the Web site to familiarize volunteers supporting the program.
- Open the Bring Up Grades resource CD and print copies of the informational sheet and form letters, and create a handout for distribution to teachers during an information session about the program.
- Meet with the school principal and teachers and agree on:
  - The estimated percentage of students who may achieve the award.

- ❑ The communication plan for educating teachers, students, and parents.
- ❑ Identify a school/agency person who will serve as a contact, providing information about BUG honorees.
- ❑ Hang a banner in the school to promote awareness.
- ❑ Make arrangements with teachers to create a bulletin board where photos of BUG recipients will be displayed. (Bulletin board materials are included in the program kit.)
- ❑ Ask local businesses to sponsor the BUG program by providing coupons, giveaways and other types of support. Assure business sponsors they will receive advertising in school publications, on school bulletin boards, and in news releases sent to local media.
- ❑ Supply recognition certificates and other Kiwanis BUG awards. (These items all are included in the program kit.)
- ❑ Photograph BUG recipients for display on the school's bulletin board and for submission to local media with news releases.
- ❑ Invite parents to award presentations. (A letter of invitation is included on the resource CD.)
- ❑ Plan and attend recognition events, present awards, and spend time with BUG recipients!

**The school principal or organization director should:**

- ❑ Explain the BUG program to teachers at a faculty meeting and request input regarding goals to be set, percentage of students to be honored, and recognition schedule. An organization director would take the same action as the principal and explain the program to staff members.
- ❑ Share information about the program with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or other group supporting the school or organization. (An informational sheet is available on the resource CD. Kiwanis Kids brochures promoting Kiwanis' elementary school programs also are available from Kiwanis International.)
- ❑ Announce BUG recipients over the school's public announcement (PA) system. An organization director would do the same using the facilities' PA system.

**Antonjo's  
study tip:  
¡Hola!  
I always study in  
the same place...  
in my digs.**



**The participating teacher or staff member should:**

- Explain the BUG program to students. (An informational sheet explaining the program is available on the resource CD.)
- Send a letter to each parent explaining the BUG program. (A sample parent letter is available on the resource CD.)
- Decide how students will be honored at the end of each grading period.
- Provide the school principal/agency director with the list of BUG recipients at the end of each grading period.
  - The school principal uses this listing to announce the names of BUG recipients over the school's public announcement (PA) system. The organization director should promote recipients in the same way, if possible.
  - The sponsoring club uses this list to produce certificates for presentation to students at a special ceremony. The list also will be used in press releases mailed to local media.

**Presentation of awards include these steps:**

**The school and the sponsoring club work together to:**

- 1** Make arrangements for presenting awards. This may vary from school to school, or organization to organization. Some schools may choose to recognize students at a special school assembly, during the lunch hour, during class, or some schools may choose one or more of these options. (Review the guidebook section about planning the recognition party for more information.)
- 2** Recruit local businesses to assist with BUG recognition. The school/organization should share ideas about which business partners are of interest. Fast food restaurants, grocery stores, and retailers often are interested in supporting character development programs and may provide coupons in return for advertising.
- 3** Post the business sponsor's name on the BUG bulletin board, mention them in news releases, and promote them in school publications and yearbooks. Providing this type of advertising ensures the business partner will continue supporting the program.

**4** Write congratulatory letters to the parents of the BUG recipient and invite them to the recognition event. (A copy of this letter is included on the resource CD.) The sponsoring club may choose to host a program at the end of the school day providing punch and cookies, while others arrange a pizza party during the school lunch hour. If parents are unable to attend during a lunch hour session, recognition items should be sent home to keep parents informed.

**5** Each BUG recipient is presented with a personalized certificate, business sponsor coupon, and other gift. Recipients are photographed separately and as a group. Photos are placed on the BUG school bulletin board, sent to the business sponsor, and used to send with news releases to local news media.

**6** A banner, posters, bulletin board decor, certificates, and other recognition items are provided in the BUG program kit. If the BUG program is sponsored by a large school or more than one school, additional recognition items are available from the Kiwanis Family Store.

### **BUG Program with a twist: Alternative approaches**



The key to making this program a success is to make it fun for all involved. Every child has an opportunity to be included on the BUG Honor Roll. A student can remain on the BUG Honor Roll by maintaining his/her grades and bringing up one grade each grading period. This applies to any grade. If a child has all Ds and maintains Ds, but brings one D up to a C, he/she qualifies.

Perhaps there is a student who is helpful to other students in class and as a result others are honored as BUG recipients. One way of recognizing this special student is to honor he/she as a Super BUG! Students who take the time to mentor their peers are exceptional and should be recognized for demonstrating such character.

## Approaching business sponsors

Often schools are interested in partnering with businesses but don't know how to approach them for assistance. The BUG program provides an easy solution. A sponsor is needed to support this program and this is what the business can do to offer support. In return the school will promote the sponsoring company in school publications and through news releases sent to local media. It's a win, win situation!

The school receives coupons, and/or free giveaways to provide incentive to students, and the local business receives additional business, publicity, and improves its image as a result of providing support to the school.

Visit the Bring Up Grades Web site to learn helpful tips about ways your club or organization can approach businesses for support.

Some sponsoring clubs have found it helpful to develop one primary business partner who often times agrees to pick-up most of the program's cost.

The key to approaching businesses for support is pointing out the benefits they will enjoy as a result of being involved in the program.

### Benefits to partnering businesses

Increased visibility.

Increased business.

Improved community image.

Good feeling in knowing their business is supporting youth.

### When talking to businesses share the following:

- \* Size of the school
- \* Average size of each classroom
- \* Estimated number of students the club would like to honor during the year

- \* Cost of all program materials, asking that a portion of this amount be donated, or request coupons or giveaways.
- \* Ideas about business partner promotions
  - ◆ Free advertising in the school's yearbooks
  - ◆ Name recognition in letters sent home to parents
  - ◆ Name recognition in news releases sent to local media
  - ◆ Name recognition on bumper stickers

The business sponsor may want to provide funds for a portion of the cost of personalized BUG bumper stickers displaying the business name. (Available from the Kiwanis Family Store.) Mention the estimated number of cars driving around town with these bumper stickers.

Promotion of business partnership on the BUG bulletin board.

Remember to provide the business sponsor with copies of promotional materials including their name. Also ask the business sponsor to post information about BUG winners. If the business sponsor has an employee bulletin board, post the information in this area for employees to see.

## Planning an Awards Program

### Recognition in the classroom

- ❖ BUG recipients participate in a special activity (The teacher can identify the fun activity at the beginning of the year in an attempt to motivate student participation.)
- ❖ BUG recipients share brain warm-up activities, which promote learning readiness. (Visit the BUG Web site to view and print these types of activities.)
- ❖ Display the BUG Honor Roll in the classroom. Students should be informed that the goal is to see everyone listed on the BUG Honor Roll each grading period.



## Henry Hop's study tip:

### Greetings:

I do the hard stuff  
first...

then hop  
into the rest!



### Recognition at a school assembly

- When making the BUG recognition, a short presentation should be made explaining the program and what BUG (Bring Up Grades) represents.
- Students should be seated in the order their names will be announced. Students should step forward to accept their certificates at the school assembly. If there is enough time, a lapel pin may also be presented to each student.
- Parents should be invited to this presentation.
- Take photos of each BUG recipient and then take a group photo.

### Recognition at a special party

#### Lunch party

Make arrangements to seat BUG recipients in one section of the lunchroom. Volunteers then serve BUGs a special lunch. The type of food served is up to the volunteers. Pizza is a big hit with kids. Be sure to check with the school cafeteria staff to approve any plans volunteers have to provide lunch. The lunch celebration usually is held in combination with another celebration, like recognition at a school assembly. This way students are recognized and receive awards at the assembly, and also receive special acknowledgement at lunchtime. The lunch celebration is created specifically for students; parents may not be able to attend a function at this time of the day.

Take photos of the group eating lunch.

#### Mid-day or end of the day party

- Invite parents to attend this event.
- Serve punch, cookies, cake, ice cream, and other snacks.
- Present students with BUG certificates, lapel pins, and special gifts.
- Take a group photo and photos of each BUG recipient.

## Other forms of recognition

One school in Arlington, Virginia, brought in sports figures, politicians, and musicians to congratulate students who brought up their grades.

One school district in Louisiana developed a BUG honor roll banquet and invited BUG recipients and their families to a special dinner hosted by the sponsoring club and the program's business sponsor.

## Publicity

- \* Contact local newspapers about coverage.
- \* Contact local radio and television stations. Ask them to report award ceremonies.
- \* Don't forget high school radio stations. Ask the high school radio-television department to provide coverage and to create promotional radio and television spots.
- \* Make a presentation at parent teacher meetings or other meetings at which individuals are interested in the program.
- \* Ask BUG recipients to write thank-you notes to business sponsors and make copies of newspaper clippings covering the program to send along to the business sponsor.

## The Budget

The club sponsoring the BUG program and the business sponsor, if possible, should try to split the cost of these items, if possible:

- ◆ Additional materials for presentation (See the BUG supplies catalog).
- ◆ Refreshments or food for a lunch party.
- ◆ Photo development, or this can be done electronically with a digital camera.
- ◆ Postage to mail invitations and press releases.
- ◆ Paper and duplicating.

**Share your BUG success stories.**

Send Kiwanis Kids staff an e-mail and share how this program made an impact at your school or organization.

E-mail: [KiwaniKids@Kiwanis.org](mailto:KiwaniKids@Kiwanis.org)

Web site: [www.KiwaniKids.org](http://www.KiwaniKids.org)



[www.kiwaniskids.org](http://www.kiwaniskids.org)

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