

# News Clips

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# **Ka-ching! fills every chair at Manual for CSAP**

## **Principal tolerates cash payout to ensure attendance**

By Nancy Mitchell, Rocky Mountain News (Contact)

Thursday, March 13, 2008

A plan to pay Manual High School students to take state tests this week has paid off - with 100 percent attendance.

Manual Principal Rob Stein is hardly the first metro-area educator to use enticements to get students to take part in the Colorado Student Assessment Program.

Other schools - particularly high schools - have used movie passes, fast-food certificates and chances to win raffles with prizes such as televisions and iPods.

Stein and his staff went the more direct route of cold, hard cash. For each test taken, \$5. For good behavior, such as arriving on time, add another \$1. Private donors will pay the bill.

With nine tests over the past three days, Tuesday through Thursday, that equals about \$50 per student.

"I don't believe in it, but it works," Stein said Thursday.

The Manual alum with a doctorate from Harvard took over the struggling school in north-central Denver last fall, after eight years spent running the prestigious and private Graland Country Day School.

"The reason why I think I was willing to make the exception is there's no benefit to the kids in the CSAP," Stein said. "They don't learn from it, it's not intrinsically motivating, they don't get results in a timely way. There's just no benefit to them."

The CSAP exams are given annually to students in grades three through 10 in reading, writing, math and science.

Test results are used to rate schools, but they don't count for individual student grades or graduation.

"It's simply a chore they have to do that's unpleasant," Stein said. "I don't think paying them to do an unpleasant chore is the same thing as paying them to learn."

Students also will be rewarded if they perform better than expected, based on past test performance, when CSAP results are returned this August.

"We wanted kids not just to be present but to try," the principal said.

Of Manual's 160 students - all ninth-graders - only a student who ran away from home a month ago did not take any tests. Another student must make up two of the nine tests given.

Otherwise, attendance was perfect.

In spring 2006, the last time Manual students took the exams, absence rates ranged from zero to 15 percent on tests. DPS leaders shuttered the poorly performing school in 2006-07 to plan its current reform.

"Having 100 percent attendance is tremendous," said DPS Superintendent Michael Bennet, who heard about the plan on Thursday morning.

"I do think we have to look at all kinds of incentives and disincentives to get the behavior we all want," he said. "Whether it's appropriate for all schools, I don't know the answer to that."

Stein said the school also had other strategies, including collecting student cell phone numbers and calling those who were running late.

Teachers also emphasized that "we really want to rally as a community."

But the money definitely helped. Altogether, he said private donors can expect to pay out about \$8,000. Students will be paid next week.

"It's not part of my educational philosophy," said Stein, who believes learning should be intrinsically motivated.

But, he added, "I'm obligated to go with the data on this one. One thing we've learned is, it works."

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# Denver Post

## Thursday, March 13, 2008

### ADL unveils no-hate plan for schools

By Howard Pankratz  
*The Denver Post*

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Tolerance and understanding of individual and group differences is an ideal that is part of the foundation of the United States.

But in a world with many different races and beliefs, tolerance has often been lacking, Denver community leaders said today.

As a result, a new program, called "No Place for Hate," sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, is being launched which will allow Colorado schools to implement anti-bias programs and projects.

The program was announced today by Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper and Bruce DeBoskey, regional director of the ADL's Mountain States Office, on the steps of Denver's City and County Building.

Hickenlooper called it an important step forward.

"We are gathered here today to imagine a world without racism, without bigotry and without hatred. We are here to imagine a day when you won't see swastikas painted on the side of a

synagogue or a home and a swastika will only exist between the covers of a history book," said the mayor.

"We imagine a day when green grass covers a hole left by burning a cross, a day when any form of a hate crime becomes a thing of the past," Hickenlooper added.

"Today we gather not to just imagine such a thing but to actually move it forward."

Through the year-long program, schools work to complete five steps to earn their designation as a "No Place for Hate" community.

The steps include:

- Creating a coalition of administrators, teachers, staff, students, parents and community leaders to oversee the implementation of anti-bias programs and projects at the school.
- Sign ADL's "Resolution of Respect" and display it in the school. The resolution says, in part, that "I firmly believe that one person can make a difference and that no person can be an innocent bystander when it comes to opposing hate."
- Complete three or more activities listed in the ADL's "Positive Impact!" Resource guide's 101 Ways to Make a Positive Impact in your community.
- Participate in one of ADL's "A World of Difference" Institute training programs.
- Complete and submit the "activities and fulfillment forms" to the ADL.

After the completion of the requirements, the school will be designated a "No place for Hate" campus.

Among the training programs are peer training that provides students with training resources to design and lead interactive programs that contribute to "respectful, bias-free schools and communities."

The training programs also focus on both face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying. It teaches students about the harm of name-calling and bullying and develops skills to respond to such incidents.

As far as cyberbullying, the students are taught about "trickery, trolling and threats."

DeBoskey said that since 1941, the ADL has worked in Denver with a mission "of stopping the defamation of the Jewish people and securing justice and fair treatment for all.

He said the new program will help build a community that is "more accepting, more inclusive and more welcoming for all."

Mary Lou Makepeace, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado, said the fund considers ADL a very critical partner "in our work to advance equality throughout the state of Colorado."

Makepeace said the "No Place for Hate" is the type of program needed in the schools.

"Research shows that when there are programs like this in schools, kids attend more, perform better because there is less harassment, less hate speech," said Makepeace. "It is just a safer more pleasant place for kids and so they do better and schools perform better."

Hickenlooper concluded by saying that the "No Place for Hate" program is a tool that will empower schools to promote respect for individuals and "promote recognition and celebration of their differences, to challenge prejudice and bigotry."

Schools wanting to sign up, and for additional information about the program, should call 303-830-7177 ext. 238, or visit [regions.ADL.org/mountain-states/](https://regions.ADL.org/mountain-states/)

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